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## Sensenbrenner: House Approves Bipartisan Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization

To: National Desk

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 28 /U.S. Newswire/ – The House today by a 415-to-4 margin approved bipartisan Justice Department authorization legislation that reauthorizes the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and implements much-needed reforms to the Department’s grant programs. House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-Wis.) introduced H.R. 3402, which authorizes Justice Department programs for fiscal years 2006-2009.

Chairman Sensenbrenner commented, “This legislation contains common sense provisions designed to improve administration of programs and offices within the Department. H.R. 3402 eliminates duplication by consolidating the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant program and the Byrne grant program into one program with the same purposes and simplified administration. This legislation supports programs to combat domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by reauthorizing some important core programs such as ‘STOP’ grants and grants to reduce campus violence. These programs have been successful in combating domestic and family violence.”

“The reauthorization of VAWA will continue the tradition of changing attitudes toward domestic violence and will expand its focus to change attitudes toward other violent crimes including dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The legislation also reauthorizes critical programs necessary to help protect the safety and security of Americans, while enabling Congress to properly exercise the vigorous oversight that the Constitution requires,” added Chairman Sensenbrenner.

### Highlights of H.R. 3402

- Authorizes appropriations for the Department of Justice for fiscal years 2006 through 2009
- Implements reforms to the Department’s grant programs
- Creates a privacy officer at the Justice Department who must report to Congress on alleged privacy violations by the Department

- Establishes an office to ensure grant money is used appropriately and to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse in grant programs
- Reauthorizes core programs from the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and 2000 and makes improvements to those grant programs to enhance the ability to combat domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking
- Reauthorizes the STOP program, which provides state formula grants that help fund collaborative efforts between police and prosecutors and victim services providers
- Reauthorizes grants with the goal of police officers aggressively arresting abusers who commit acts of violence or violate protection orders
- Authorizes new grants to improve training for court officials and law enforcement.

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