The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 2000 expires in 2005 and the remarkable gains we’ve made in ending domestic and sexual violence could come to a halt if Congress does not act quickly.

During the past decade, VAWA has saved lives and helped millions of women and children find safety, security and self-sufficiency.

**Talk about how VAWA programs have helped your community.**

From lessons we have learned since VAWA was first authorized, we are now asking Congress to reauthorize VAWA in a way that integrates community responses and resources to end violence against women.

Proposals for VAWA reauthorization include innovative and cost-effective programs that will:

- **Reauthorize and enhance existing VAWA programs.**
- Continue to help the criminal justice and legal systems better protect and help victims.
- Develop new programs that better respond to community needs and create a comprehensive yet pragmatic approach to ending violence against women.
- Provide direct services for all victims while addressing the unique needs of underserved communities such as women who are disabled or elderly, ethnic minorities, and those who live in rural communities.
- Create housing solutions for victims, including allowing victims to access the criminal justice system while maintaining their housing.
- Provide services to children, teens and young adults who have experienced violence in their lives, and educate young people about domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Prevent violence against women and children by reaching out to children and families at risk.
- Strengthen the health care system’s response to violence against women.
- Allow victims to keep their jobs by making the workplace safer and more responsive.
- Ensure existing forms of immigration relief are available to victims through amendments to current law.
- Significantly improve the response to American Indian and Native Alaskan victims, who experience staggering rates of physical and sexual assault.
- Work with the military and the Department of Defense to provide services and solutions for military victims.
- Give examples about how your community needs these new programs.
- VAWA will be introduced in the coming weeks in both the House and Senate.
- We urge members of Congress to pledge their support for a Violence Against Women Act in 2005.

For more information about VAWA reauthorization, please contact Jill Morris at the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 202-745-1211 or jmorris@ncadv.org, or Allison Randall at the National Network to End Domestic Violence, 202-543-5566 or arandall@nnedv.org.