



# VAWA Reauthorization Talking Points



- ◆ **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](mailto:jmorris@ncadv.org), or Allison Randall at the National Network to End Domestic Violence, 202-543-5566 or [arandall@nnev.org](mailto:arandall@nnev.org).