

Public Policy Update

1633 Q St NW #210 · Washington, DC 20009
(202) 745-1211 · Fax: (202) 745-0088 · publicpolicy@nccadv.org



June 14, 2005

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT INTRODUCED IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Contact your Representative and ask him or her to co-sponsor the
Violence Against Women Act.**

Legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was introduced in the House today, June 14, 2005, by Representative Green (R-WI), Rep. Conyers (D-MI), Rep. Boustany (R-LA), Rep. Brown-Waite (R-FL), Rep. Capps (R-D), Rep. DeLauro (D-CT), Rep. Foley (R-FL), Rep. Hart (R-PA), Rep. Maloney (D-NY), Rep. Michaud (D-MN), Rep. Moore Capito (R-WV), Rep. Judge Poe (R-TX), Rep. Pryce (R-OH), Rep. Reichert (R-WA) and Rep. Solis (D-CA). For e-mail addresses, visit

http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm.

Originally passed in 1994 and reauthorized in 2000, VAWA dramatically increased society's awareness of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. VAWA improved the protection of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. In addition, VAWA programs provided resources to improve the criminal justice system's response to victims of violence, especially through training for police, prosecutors, and court officials.

The bipartisan House bill, HR 2876, reauthorizes critical existing programs and responds to evolving community needs by establishing new programs. It improves the civil and criminal justice systems' response to victims of violence through education and collaboration. It encourages community collaboration on solutions for transitional, long-term, and low income housing to prevent homelessness of victims of violence. It provides a new funding stream for sexual assault services, and provides grant programs for services to victims with disabilities and victims of abuse in later life. In addition, it creates programs for violence prevention as well as assistance to children, teenagers, and young adults who experience violence. The healthcare provision focuses on improving the identification and treatment of injuries from domestic and sexual violence. Finally, this bill integrates the needs of communities of color throughout the bill.

Through reauthorization, Congress can renew successful, existing programs and create new programs that will increase the safety and stability of the lives of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. Unless Congress reauthorizes VAWA, it will expire on September 30 of this year.

To view the House bill, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov>. Please note that bills will typically not be available on Thomas until 48 hours after introduction.

NCADV needs your help to reauthorize this landmark piece of legislation. Please contact your Representative and ask him or her to protect victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by co-sponsoring VAWA. Check out NCADV's VAWA Action Guide at http://www.ncadv.org/publicpolicy/ViolenceAgainstWomenAct2005_165.html for more information on Congressional Committees, VAWA talking points, and a sample VAWA Reauthorization Letter. You may contact your Member of Congress by calling the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121, or by visiting <http://www.congress.org>

For a history and overview of VAWA, visit the National Taskforce to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women at <http://www.vawa2005.org/>.

For additional information and assistance, contact the NCADV Public Policy Office at (202) 745-1211 or publicpolicy@ncadv.org.