VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT INTRODUCED IN SENATE

Contact your Senators and ask them to co-sponsor the Violence Against Women Act.

Legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was introduced in the Senate today, June 8, 2005, by Senator Biden (D-DE), Sen. Specter (R-PA) and Sen. Hatch (R-UT) along with colleagues, Sen. Boxer (D-CA), Sen. DeWine (R-OH), Sen. Grassley (R-IA), Sen. Kennedy (D-MA), Sen. Kohl (D-WI), Sen. Leahy (D-VT), Sen. Stabenow (D-MI), and Sen. Schumer (D-NY). For e-mail addresses, visit http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm.

Originally passed in 1994 and reauthorized in 2000, VAWA revolutionized the way society addressed domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. During the past decade, VAWA has provided tremendous resources and protections for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. VAWA programs have provided increased training for police, prosecutors, and court officials, and greatly improved the response of the criminal justice system to victims of violence.

The bipartisan Senate bill improves the response of the criminal justice and legal systems; reauthorizes critical existing programs with new services that respond to evolving community needs; creates programs that focus on violence prevention and intervention; develops a comprehensive approach for the assistance of children, teens and young adults who experience violence; creates solutions to prevent victims and their children from becoming homeless; closes the gap in the delivery of health care to domestic violence and sexual assault survivors; highlights the needs of communities of color; and provides funding for rape crisis centers and other agencies to provide advocacy services to victims of sexual assault.

Through reauthorization, Congress has the opportunity not only to continue successful and crucial existing programs, but also to expand on ten years of progress to further 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 Senate bill, visit http://thomas.loc.gov. Please note that bills will typically not be available on Thomas until 48 hours after introduction. Updates on the status of the bill will be provided on the NCADV website at http://www.ncadv.org/.

**NCADV needs your help to reauthorize this landmark piece of legislation.** Please contact your Senators and ask them 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/congressorg/home/.

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

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