



December 12, 2011

[Addressed to individual Members of Congress]

We, the undersigned organizations, represent millions of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, and the professionals who serve them, throughout the United States and territories. On behalf of the victims we represent, we ask that you support the Violence Against Women Act's (VAWA) reauthorization.

VAWA's programs support state, tribal and local efforts to address the pervasive and insidious crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. These programs have made great progress towards keeping victims safe and holding perpetrators accountable. This critical legislation must be reauthorized to ensure a continued response to these crimes.

Since its original passage in 1994, VAWA has dramatically enhanced our nation's response to violence against women. More victims report domestic violence to the police and the rate of non-fatal intimate partner violence against women has decreased by 63%. The sexual assault services program in VAWA helps rape crisis centers keep their doors open to provide the frontline response to victims of rape. VAWA provides for a coordinated community approach, improving collaboration between law enforcement and victim services providers to better meet the needs of victims. These comprehensive and cost-effective programs not only save lives, they also save money. In fact, VAWA saved nearly \$12.6 billion in net averted social costs in just its first six years.

VAWA has unquestionably improved the national response to these terrible crimes. We urge you to support VAWA's reauthorization to build upon its successes and continue to enhance our nation's ability to hold perpetrators accountable and keep victims and their children safe from future harm.

We look forward to working with you throughout the reauthorization process. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Juley Fulcher with Break the Cycle at jfulcher@breakthecycle.org, Rob Valente with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges at robvalente@dvpolicy.com, or Terri Poore with the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence at tpoore@fcasv.org.

Sincerely,

Alianza-National Latino Alliance to End Domestic Violence
Alternatives to Family Violence
American Association of University Women
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Probation and Parole Association
American Psychiatric Association
Americans Overseas Domestic Crisis Center
ASHA for Women
Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence

ASISTA Immigration Assistance
Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies
Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
Black Women's Health Imperative
Break the Cycle
Casa de Esperanza
Church of the Brethren
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Deaf Abused Women's Network
Disciples Justice Action Network
Disciples Women of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Domestic Violence Report
Feminist Majority/Feminist Majority Foundation
Futures Without Violence (formerly the Family Violence Prevention Fund)
General Federation of Women's Clubs
Institute on Domestic Violence in the African-American Community
International Association of Forensic Nurses
Japanese American Citizens League
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Women International
Joyful Heart Foundation
Legal Momentum
MANA – A National Latina Organization
Men Can Stop Rape
Mennonite Central Committee US
Methodist Federation for Social Action
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
National Association of Counties
National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators
National Center for Victims of Crime
National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs
National Congress of American Indians Violence Against Women Task Force
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Negro Women
National Council on Independent Living
National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
National Council of Women's Organizations
National Dating Abuse Hotline
National Domestic Violence Hotline
National Housing Law Project
National Institute of Crime Prevention
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty

National Legal Aid and Defender Association
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Organization for Women
National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault
National Women's Political Caucus
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National Resource Sharing Project
NETWORK – A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
9to5, National Association of Working Women
Nursing Network on Violence Against Women International
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Rape Abuse and Incest National Network
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Service Women's Action Network
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States
Tribal Law and Policy Institute
Union for Reform Judaism
United Church of Christ
United Methodist Church (General Board of Church and Society)
Voices of Men
Witness Justice
Women's Information Network
Women's Law Project
Women of Color Network
YWCA USA

State and local sign-ons:

Advocates Against Family Violence, Caldwell, ID
AYUDA, Inc., Washington, DC
Beyond Survival Sexual Assault Resource Center Greys Harbor Cnty, Aberdeen, WA
Bridges of Williamson County, TN
Choices Domestic Violence Solutions, Gardena, CA
Christian Women Alive, Troy, MI
Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, Cleveland, OH
Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center, Albany, NY
Crisis Center and Women's Shelter, Ottumwa, IA
Crisis Council, Troy, NC
Cross Roads Safe House, Fort Collins, CO
DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Washington, DC
District Alliance for Safe Housing, Washington, DC
Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, Red Lodge, MT
Domestic Violence Project, Canton, OH
Drogheda Project, Shattuc, IL
Family Shelter Service, Wheaton, IL
Family Services, Green Bay, WI
Hope Center, Faribault, MN

Human Options, Inc., Irvine, CA
Gateway Family Services, Snyder, TX
Life Source Consultants, Inc., St. Louis, MO
Mass 2-1-1, Framingham, MA
Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis, Meridan, CT
Middleway House, Bloomington, IN
Monsoon United Asian Women, IA
My Sister's Place, Washington, DC
My Sister's Place, White Plains, NY
Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Bethpage, NY
New York Asian Women's Center, New York, NY
Panhandle Crisis Center, Perryton, TX
Peace Over Violence, Los Angeles, CA
Rainbow Response Coalition, Washington, DC
Ramona's Way, Washington, DC
Rare Diamond Minds, Baltimore, MD
The Retreat, Suffolk County, NY
SoLatina, Revere, MA
Someplace Safe, Fergus Falls, MN
South Dakota Coalition Ending Domestic and Sexual Violence
South Suburban Family Shelter, Homewood, IL
S.T.A.C.I.E. Foundation, Cincinnati, OH
The Support Center, Omak, WA
Survivors and Advocates For Empowerment, Washington, DC
Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, Austin, TX
Trainings, Transitions, Teams, Overland Park, KS
Turnaround Coaching, Inc., Gilbert, AZ
Voices of Hope, Lincoln, NE
VIBS—Family Violence and Rape Crisis Center, Holbrook, NY
WEAVE—Washington Empowered Against Violence, Washington, DC
Women Against Abuse, Philadelphia, PA
Women in Transition, Philadelphia, PA
YWCA Alaska, Anchorage, AK
YWCA, Dayton, OH
YWCA Lancaster, Lancaster, PA
YWCA DV/SA Resource Center, Clinton, IA
YWCA DV/SA Resource Center Jackson, Maquoketa, IA
YWCA Greater Cincinnati, OH
YWCA Greater Harrisburg, PA
YWCA Greater Triangle
YWCA, Hartford, CT
YWCA Metropolitan Chicago, Chicago, IL
YWCA Monterey County, Salinas, CA
YWCA of the Sauk Valley, Sterling, IL
YWCA Fort Worth & Tarrant County, TX
YWCA South Hampton Roads, VA
YWCA, Spokane, WA