

**Policy Alert
November 2011**

Urge Congress to Reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

VAWA reauthorization legislation will soon be introduced in the Senate and we need your help to make our strongest push for Senate co-sponsors, especially for Republican co-sponsors. As you know, VAWA has always enjoyed broad bipartisan support. Senator Leahy (D-VT), who is Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has been working on a draft bill and is very open to continuing to improve and refine the current draft. He has pledged to work with supporters, Senators and advocates, on their input. The push is for co-sponsors who recognize the importance of VAWA to support survivors, keep communities safe and prevent future domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Please call your two U.S. Senators today and ask them to co-sponsor Sen. Leahy's VAWA reauthorization legislation.

Don't know who your Senators are or how to contact them? Visit the following link: http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

To access a one page summary on VAWA Reauthorization, click here:
<http://casadeesperanza.org/pdfs/VAWAReauthorizationOne-pagerNTF.pdf>

Talking Points to Use and Share

Do you have a high profile ally who is willing to reach out to Republican Senators on this as well? If so, ask her/him to call.

When you call the D.C. office: remind your Senator (or their staff) how the Violence Against Women Act helps save the lives of people right in your state and local community. Say: "Here's how VAWA programs support victims and end violence in our state"

Also, tell them that this version of VAWA is streamlined, focusing on programs that work.

Stress that domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking are pervasive societal problems and that the federal government is an essential partner to states and local communities who are working on solving these problems.



At the conclusion of your phone call, your message is simple: **"Can we get your (your Senator's) commitment today to co-sponsor the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act?"**

If they sound supportive, let them know that they should contact Senator Leahy's office for a copy of the draft bill. If they have questions, tell them someone will get back to them with more details. Please let us know how the call went. Email Casa de Esperanza's Director of Public Policy, Rosie Hidalgo, at rhidalgo@casadeesperanza.org so that we can follow up with your Senator.

Finally, while we are asking that you call **EVERY** Senator with this request, please act immediately if you live in any of the following states:

- Senator Kelly Ayotte (R- New Hampshire)
- Senator Mike Crapo (R-Idaho)
- Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah)
- Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)

**Let's get bipartisan VAWA legislation passed together!
Thank you!**

About the National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities

The National Latin@ Network is led by Casa de Esperanza, a national Latina organization whose mission is to mobilize Latinas and Latin@ communities to end domestic violence. The National Latin@ Network builds on Casa de Esperanza's experience working in local communities to support families, end domestic violence, and increase meaningful access to services for Latina@s.