

## S. \_\_\_\_\_, The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2011

*The bipartisan Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2011 (VAWA 2011) advances the federal government's effective, comprehensive efforts in combating domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The bill provides essential resources to state and local law enforcement to investigate and prosecute these crimes and to non-profit organizations that supply essential services for victims and survivors.*

### **VAWA-funded programs have dramatically improved the national response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.**

- VAWA has improved the criminal justice system's ability to keep victims safe and hold perpetrators accountable. As a result of this historic legislation, every state has enacted laws making stalking a crime and strengthened criminal rape statutes.
- VAWA programs have provided victims with critical services such as transitional housing, legal assistance, and supervised visitation services. It has addressed the unique barriers faced by victims in rural communities, elderly victims, and those with disabilities.
- Since VAWA was originally enacted, reporting of domestic violence has increased as much as 51%. More victims are coming forward and receiving lifesaving services to help them move from crisis to stability.
- VAWA has successfully encouraged communities to coordinate their responses to violence against women by bringing together victim advocates, law enforcement, the courts, health care professionals, and leaders within faith communities.

### **VAWA 2011 builds upon effective existing programs to address changing needs in the fight against domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.**

- Recognizing the continuing crisis of inadequate reporting, enforcement, and services for victims of sexual assault, VAWA 2011 stresses the need to effectively respond to sexual assault crimes by adding new purpose areas and a 25% set-aside in the STOP state formula grant program and the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders program. These changes are set up in ways that ensure continued intensive response to domestic violence and other offenses.
- The bill provides tools to prevent domestic violence homicides by training law enforcement, victim service providers, and court personnel on identifying and managing high risk offenders and connecting high risk victims to crisis intervention services.
- VAWA 2011 improves responses to the high rate of violence against women in tribal communities by strengthening concurrent tribal criminal jurisdiction over perpetrators who assault Indian spouses and dating partners in Indian country.
- The bill strengthens housing protections for victims by applying existing housing protections to nine additional federal housing programs.
- VAWA 2011 promotes accountability to ensure that federal funds are used for their intended purposes. The bill also consolidates programs and reduces authorization levels to address fiscal concerns and focuses on the programs that have been most successful.