



Working for Women's Equality from the Streets to the Legislature

# FEMINIST MAJORITY

---

**For Immediate Release:**

April 26, 2012

**Contact:**

Hannah Gordon

[media@feminist.org](mailto:media@feminist.org)

703.522.2214

**Feminist Majority Applauds Senate Passage of Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act**

The Feminist Majority applauds the Senate's vote today to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The VAWA reauthorization bill passed by the Senate on a 68 to 31 vote today is the first to include access to law enforcement and services for Native American women, better access for immigrant women who fear deportation if they report violence, and better access for LGBT victims.

Feminist Majority President Eleanor Smeal, praising the action taken by the Senate today, said "Violence is violence and VAWA must cover all victims. The House must move promptly to pass the Senate bill without amendments and not a watered down substitute."

In the almost 18 years since VAWA was initially passed, millions have benefited from its provisions. Between 1993 and 2010, the rate of intimate partner violence declined by 67%. States are taking violence against women more seriously and all states now have stalking laws, criminal sanctions for violation of civil protection orders, and reforms that make date or spousal rape as serious of a crime as stranger rape. Moreover, VAWA established the National Domestic Violence Hotline, which receives over 22,000 calls each month and VAWA funds train over 500,000 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, and other personnel each year.

The Feminist Majority strongly urges the House to pass the Senate bill and extend critical lifesaving programs and services for another five years. Eliminating violence against women is not... must not... be a partisan issue.

###



Working for Women's Equality from the Streets to the Legislature

# FEMINIST MAJORITY

Dear feminist activist,

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) will be on the Senate floor for debate and a vote next week. It moved forward when a motion to proceed passed just last night.

**Contact your Senators today and thank them if they have signed on as co-sponsors** of S.1925 as introduced by Judiciary Committee Chair Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT). **If your Senators are not sponsors, urge them to vote yes** on S. 1925.

The current VAWA reauthorization bill is the first that includes access to law enforcement and services for Native American women, better access for immigrant women who fear deportation if they report violence, and better access for LGBT victims.

**Tell your Senators that VAWA has had bipartisan support in the past and we cannot allow this crucial legislation to fall victim to partisanship now**, when millions of women and men need the protections and services it includes. Since it first became law in 1994, millions have benefited from VAWA.

- Between 1993 and 2010, the rate of intimate partner violence declined by 67%.
- States are taking violence against women more seriously and all states now have stalking laws, criminal sanctions for violation of civil protection orders, and reforms that make date or spousal rape as serious of a crime as stranger rape.
- VAWA established the National Domestic Violence Hotline, which receives over 22,000 calls each month.
- VAWA funds train over 500,000 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, and other personnel each year.

This landmark legislation sent the message that violence against women is a crime and will not be tolerated. If Congress fails to reauthorize VAWA with all of the provisions in S. 1925, what message will it be sending?

**Stand with me today and act now to ask your Senators to reauthorize VAWA.**

For women's lives,

Eleanor Smeal  
President  
Feminist Majority

1600 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 801, Arlington, VA 22209 | 703.522.2214 |

[femmaj@feminist.org](mailto:femmaj@feminist.org)

*You have received this e-mail because of your interest in women's issues. To unsubscribe, please go to:*

<http://www.feministmajority.org/email/unsubscribeallc4.asp>



**Tell your Senators to reauthorize VAWA now!**