

**Don't Let Congress Adjourn for the Year without Reauthorizing VAWA. Congress must finish work on VAWA **\*\*NOW\*\*** or risk never passing the bill!**

By Elenora Giddings Ivory

[November 17, 2005] The two Violence Against Women Act bills passed by the House and Senate earlier this year were very different from each other, and Congress must resolve the differences between the two bills before VAWA can be reauthorized. Congress may recess for the year at the end of the this week. If they return in December to finish any other business, it will only be for a day or two.

Your calls over the last week and a half have WORKED. In response to your calls, House and Senate staff began negotiations on the bill and it began to move forward. You are being heard!

But we still need you -- now more than ever!

There is a grave danger that Congress will not finish the bill this year, or will agree to a watered-down bill that is missing many key protections for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

\*\*\*If VAWA is not passed and signed into law this year, funding for domestic and sexual violence programs could be lost.\*\*\*

What can you do?

There is only one thing that will ensure Congress reauthorizes VAWA: YOUR VOICES!

We need EVERYONE to make calls THIS WEEK. Please encourage your friends and family to participate!!

All Members of Congress can be helpful. Even if they have promised to support VAWA, they need to hear from you again.

Tell them:

\*\* Your name and the city and state you live in.

\*\* "Please reauthorize VAWA before you adjourn for the year."

\*\* Tell them what it will mean to your community if VAWA is not reauthorized.

To find your Member's contact information, including phone and fax numbers, visit [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov), [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov), or call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and ask for your Senators and Representative.

Never called your Member of Congress before? Don't worry, it's easy!

When you call your Senator or Representative, your call will be answered by a receptionist. Tell him or her that you want to leave a message for the Senator or Representative. The receptionist will take down your message.

For more information, please contact Allison Randall at [arandall@nnedv.org](mailto:arandall@nnedv.org) or 202-543-5566.

Only you can ensure that VAWA is reauthorized this year!

--This urgent Action Alert was prepared by the National Network to End Domestic Violence.

(For background information, go to the background of our June 2005 Alert, at <http://www.pcusa.org/washington/issuenet/wf-050214.htm>)

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