



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C. 20530
September 20, 2000

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am writing to call your attention to the imminent expiration of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The Administration supports reauthorization of the VAWA. Six years ago, with bipartisan support, Congress passed, and the President signed, this landmark legislation. With the passage of the VAWA, Congress sent a clear message across the country that violence against women is a crime. The VAWA is an important tool in this country's effort to combat domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault. During the past 6 years, this law has made a critical difference in the lives of countless women and children through grants and federal prosecutions. On September 30, 2000, the authorization for the VAWA's grant programs expire. It is important that Congress act now, so that service providers and law enforcement agencies across the country will know that Congress supports the vital work they do for victims of domestic violence.

With the leadership of Congressman Conyers and Congresswoman Morella, the Judiciary Committee has favorably passed, H.R. 1248, the Violence Against Women Act of 1999, which has 233 cosponsors on a bipartisan basis. This comprehensive legislation would not only reauthorize the grant programs authorized by the original act, but also strengthen the original VAWA. I hope you will bring this legislation to the House floor before it expires on September 30, 2000. I ask for your help in sending a message to women across the country that, as a Nation, we will not tolerate violence against women and that we will continue to support grant programs that provide vital services to victims of domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janet Reno", is written over a horizontal line.

Janet Reno

cc: All Members of the
U.S. House of Representatives



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C. 20530

September 20, 2000

The Honorable Trent Lott
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Leader:

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Senators Hatch and Biden have introduced, and the Judiciary Committee has favorably passed, S. 2787, the Violence Against Women Act of 2000, which has 68 cosponsors on a bipartisan basis. This comprehensive legislation would not only reauthorize the grant programs authorized by the original act, but also strengthen the original VAWA. I hope you will bring this legislation to the Senate floor before it expires on September 30, 2000. I ask for your help in sending a message to women across the country that, as a Nation, we will not tolerate violence against women and that we will continue to support grant programs that provide vital services to victims of domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault.

Sincerely,

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Janet Reno

cc: All Members of the
United States Senate



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

FAX COVER SHEETDate: 9/25/00

To:

Heather Howard

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No. of Pages: _____ (Excluding Cover)

Comments:

Sent to Hill on Friday

The Violence Against Women Act Expires in 8 Days

CONGRESS MUST ACT NOW

Six years ago, Congress passed, with strong bipartisan support, and the President signed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) as part of the historic 1994 Crime Act. This law not only strengthened criminal laws and provided funding to enhance their enforcement, but also provided a foundation for a successful long term criminal justice effort to end violence against women. By encouraging collaboration among police, prosecutors, and victim service providers, the VAWA is building a comprehensive community response to violence against women all across America.

The VAWA grants have made a difference in the lives of women and their families. The most recent Department of Justice statistics show that we have made real progress -- intimate partner violence has decreased. However, violence still devastates the lives of too many women, children and families in this country. According to Department of Justice statistics:

- Intimate partner violence made up 22% of violent crime against women between 1993 and 1998;
- In 1998, women made up nearly 75% of the 1,830 intimate partner murder victims;
- The percentage of female murder victims killed by intimate partners has remained at about 30% since 1976;
- 307,000 sexual assaults were perpetrated against women in 1998 alone; and
- Over one million women are stalked annually.

Just this week, newspaper reports from around the country cite numerous incidents of men accused of killing or seriously injuring their wives or girlfriends.

- **Poway, California** "A father of two has been arrested in the strangulation of his wife in their home while their young children slept. A friend of Tracy Lynn Isaly heard her screams over the phone Sunday night, rushed to the Ridgedale Drive house and found her unconscious in a bedroom...." *The San Diego Union Tribune*, September 19, 2000.
- **Hudson, Florida** "Deputies had been searching for (Ricky Lynn) Farrow since they were called to Angela Farrow's Lisa Drive home in Hudson just after midnight Aug. 28. There, Angela Farrow told deputies that the two had argued, and then her husband hit her and stabbed her with a screwdriver and a steak knife." *St. Petersburg Times*, September 11, 2000.
- **Sarasota, California** "Minutes away from surgery, a badly beaten Rebecca Joy Burgess told a Sarasota County sheriff's detective that her husband was responsible for her injuries. Because of the injuries to her brain and head, Rebecca Burgess, 36, went into a coma during the operation Aug. 30. She never came out of it and died Sunday night." *Herald-Tribune News Coast*, September 21, 2000.

Authorization for VAWA funding is set to expire on September 30, 2000, in just 8 days. The Clinton Administration supports reauthorization of VAWA. The House of Representatives, under the leadership of Representatives McCollum, Conyers and Morella, has worked hard on a bipartisan basis to develop legislation to reauthorize and strengthen VAWA. Now is the time to pass this important legislation.

THE HOUSE MUST ACT NOW TO PASS H.R. 1248

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THE SENATE MUST ACT NOW TO PASS S. 2787