February 1, 2012

The Honorable
Judiciary Committee Member
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator,

We, the undersigned, representing millions of Americans nationwide, are writing today to oppose the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). This nice-sounding bill is deceitful because it destroys the family by obscuring real violence in order to promote the feminist agenda.

First enacted in 1994 under the Clinton Administration and reauthorized in 2000 and 2005, VAWA has morphed into a series of rigid and ineffective law enforcement programs that continue to spend approximately $400 million each year. Angela Moore Parmley, Ph.D., from the Department of Justice, wrote in Violence Against Women, Vol. 10, No. 12, 2004, p. 1424, “We have no evidence to date that VAWA has led to a decrease in the overall levels of violence against women.”

There is no denying the very real problem of violence against women and children. However, the programs promoted in VAWA are harmful for families. VAWA often encourages the demise of the family as a means to eliminate violence.

Further, this legislation continues to use overly broad definitions of domestic violence. These broad definitions actually squander the resources for victims of actual violence by failing to properly prioritize and assess victims. Victims who can show physical evidence of abuse should be our primary focus.

This VAWA bill continues the gross constitutional abuses of the past. It also proposes to add expensive new programs, such as one that would serve to “re-educate” school children into domestic violence ideology (Section 302, authorized at $15 million a year).
For the reasons mentioned above, we urge you to oppose the VAWA bill that will be marked up on Thursday, February 2.

Sincerely,

Penny Nance
President and Chief Executive Officer
Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee

Janice Shaw Crouse, Ph.D.
Executive Director and Senior Fellow
The Beverly LaHaye Institute
Concerned Women for America

Tom McClusky
Sr. Vice President
Family Research Council Action

Phyllis Schlafly
Founder and Chairman
Eagle Forum

Colin A. Hanna
President
Let Freedom Ring

Richard Land
President
The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission

Sandy Rios
Vice President
Family PAC Federal

Elaine Donnelly
President
Center for Military Readiness

Matthew Staver
Founder and Chairman
Liberty Counsel

Deryl Edwards
President
Liberty Counsel Action

Mandi Campbell
Legal Director
Liberty Center for Law and Policy

Timothy Johnson
Founder and President
The Frederick Douglass Foundation

Ron Pearson
President
Council for America

Philip W. Cook
Director
Stop Abusive and Violent Environments

Jim Backlin
Vice President of Legislative Affairs
Christian Coalition of America

Malcolm A. Kline
Executive Director
Accuracy in Academia
(Title for identification only.)

C. Preston Noell III
President
Tradition, Family, Property, Inc.

Seton Motley
LessGovernment.org

Matt Smith
President
Catholic Advocate
Michael McCormick  
Executive Director  
American Coalition for Fathers and Children

Pastor Jim Garlow  
Chairman  
Renewing American Leadership Action

Andrea Lafferty  
President  
Traditional Values Coalition

Dan Pennell  
CEO  
WMtek Corporation

Cindy Chafian  
Founder/CEO  
The Mommy Lobby  
We Tuck the Future in at Night!

Susan Lynch  
Wisconsin