



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,

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