

January 25, 2013

Church Women United Action Alert

**TELL YOUR SENATOR TO CO-SPONSOR AND SUPPORT
THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT!
(202) 224-3121**

**Urge Your Senator to Co-Sponsor and Support the Violence
Against Women Act**

Church Women United is working closely with the Inter-Faith Domestic Violence Coalition for the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). This week, Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Senator Michael Crapo (R-ID) introduced [Senate Bill 47](#), a strong, bipartisan bill to reauthorize VAWA. This bill closely mirrors the bipartisan legislation introduced by Senators Leahy and Crapo last Congress and would improve VAWA programs and strengthen protections for all victims of violence (see description of legislation below).

As of today, the bill has 31 co-sponsors (listed below) in addition to its chief sponsors. Our goal is to get 60 co-sponsors by January 31st so that VAWA can get to the Senate floor quickly for a bipartisan victory.

Call Your Senator: Call the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and ask the operator to connect you to your Senators. If you don't know who your Senators are, you can look them up [here](#).

When you're connected to their offices, tell the person who answers the phone that you are a constituent and urge the Senator to co-sponsor S.47. Or, if your Senator has already signed on as a co-sponsor, thank them for their support and urge them to press their colleagues to co-sponsor. And ask them to continue fighting for passage of the bill!

Co-Sponsors: Senators Ayotte (R-NH), Baucus (D-AK), Begich (D-AK) Bennet (D-CO), Cantwell (D-WA), Cardin (D-MD), Casey (D-PA), Collins (R-ME), Coons (D-DE), Crapo (R-ID), Durbin (D-IL), Feinstein (D-CA), Franken (D-MN), Hagan (D-NC), Heitkamp (D-ND), King (I-ME), Kirk (R-IL), Klobuchar (D-MN), McCaskill (D-MO), Mikulski (D-MD), Murkowski (R-AK), Murray (D-WA), Pryor (AR), Reed (D-RI), Shaheen (D-NH), Stabenow (D-MI), Tester (D-MT), Udall (D-CO), Udall (NM), Warren (D-MA), Whitehouse (D-RI), and Wyden (D-OR).

Description of S. 47: In addition to many important improvements throughout the bill that received bipartisan support last year, this bill also contains enhanced protections for tribal, LGBT and immigrant victims, which were identified as critical priorities by advocates across the country and also received bipartisan support last year. Last year's bill, however, also included a modest increase in the number of U visas (created by Congress in VAWA 2000) available to immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and certain other violent crimes who assist law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of the crime. Increasing the number of U visas helps both victims and law enforcement. Unfortunately, that provision led to a technical objection from House Republican leaders. In the interest of obtaining the swift reauthorization of VAWA, the Senate introduced the new VAWA bill without that provision in order to avoid any initial technical obstacles.



**Church Women
United**

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love, united to serve"*

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without that provision in order to avoid any initial technical obstacles.

However, this new VAWA bill does recommit Congress to important immigration provisions so that all victims are protected. Senator Leahy will be working hard to include the U visa increase in the comprehensive immigration reform legislation that will soon be considered by Congress. The members of the National Task Force likewise commit to support that effort.

We are going to make this happen!

Best -



Stephanie Jones
Advocacy Coordinator
Washington Office

Church Women United
Washington Office
Telephone: 202-544-2350 Ext. 305
stephaniejones@churchwomen.org

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Church Women United
100 Maryland Avenue NE
Washington, DC 20002
US

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