

# Violence Against Women Act



## About VAWA

Originally passed in 1994, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was the first comprehensive federal legislation to address violence against women. It authorizes critical funding for domestic violence and sexual assault programs in every state and is a major source of federal funding for programs that specifically address the needs of youth experiencing dating violence.

## It's Effective

VAWA is proven to work -- since its passage, the number of individuals killed by an intimate partner has decreased by 34% for women and 57% for men. In addition, VAWA saved \$12.6 billion in net averted social costs such as medical care, law enforcement and lost wages in its first 6 years alone.

## It's Inclusive

In 2000, VAWA included protections for victims of "dating abuse" for the first time, ensuring young people nationwide have access to the help they need.

VAWA is up for reauthorization in 2013 could prove to be another landmark year -- if our leaders send the bi-partisan version that passed the Senate in the 112th Congress to the President's desk. Unfortunately, last year the House removed key programs and services that are vital to keeping LGBTQ, immigrant victims, tribal women and college students safe.

## Why Should I Help?

The version of VAWA that passed the House in 112th Congress doesn't include crucial protections for college students like requiring colleges and universities to:

- Include in their annual campus crime reports statistics on domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.
- Provide clear procedures for handling when a case of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking is reported.
- Notify victims that they can contact law enforcement and don't have to solely rely on the school's process for justice.
- Provide victims with reasonable options regarding changing their academic, living, transportation and working situations.
- Conduct prevention programs that teach all students, male and female, how to help stop sexual and dating violence.

## What Can I Do?

Visit [loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org) and [4vawa.org](http://4vawa.org) for ideas on how to make a difference including sample tweets, event materials and more.

For more information, you can visit: [www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)

Repurposing is allowed and encouraged. Please contact Break the Cycle or the National Dating Abuse Helpline for more information.