

# ACTION TOOLS: Thanking Your Legislator



## Thank You Letters

Not only is it important to contact your representative when an issue arises that concerns you, it is also important to thank your representative for voting a certain way, speaking up on an issue important to you, or attending an event you organized.

Showing a representative your appreciation for his or her effort is a great way to build a relationship and let the legislator know the voting constituency supports his or her decisions.

Follow the tips below when writing a thank you letter:

- If you are a constituent, begin your letter by saying so.
- Make clear what exactly you are thanking your legislator for: supporting a bill, making a speech, attending an event.
- Remind the legislator why this issue is important to the constituency and why his or her support is necessary.
- Now that the legislator has done something for you, offer to do something in return, such as providing resources or educating staffers.
- Be sure to include all your contact information in your letter.

### SAMPLE THANK YOU LETTER

September 28, 2000

The Honorable *[full name]*  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative *[last name]*:

On behalf of all the domestic violence advocates and victims in your district and across the country, the Madeira House of Hope deeply thanks you and your colleagues for your overwhelming support and commitment to ending the epidemic of intimate partner violence that affects millions of victims and their children each year. By voting in favor of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA; H.R. 1248) on Tuesday, September 26, 2000, you have brought us one step closer to making this country a safer place for women, children, and families.

For the past five years the programs created under the Violence Against Women Act have had a positive impact on the lives of millions of women. VAWA bolstered the prosecution of child abuse, sexual assault and domestic violence and provided additional resources for law enforcement. It also increased services for victims by funding shelters and sexual assault crisis centers. VAWA also created the National Domestic Violence Hotline, which received its 500,000<sup>th</sup> call this year. Countless lives have been saved thanks to this landmark piece of legislation.

Your speech in support of the Violence Against Women Act on the House floor conveyed a powerful message to Congress and the rest of the country. Thank you again, for your outstanding leadership and action in the House. We look forward to your continued collaboration as we work toward the passage of the Violence Against Women Act, and we would be happy to provide you will additional resources.

Sincerely,

Sandy Murphy  
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