

ACTION TOOLS: Writing Your Legislator

SAMPLE ACTION LETTER

Today's Date

The Honorable *[Full Name]*
(*Office Number and Building Name*)
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator *[Last Name]*:

Over the past ten years Congress has responded positively and effectively to the fight against domestic violence by fully funding many of the programs created by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Programs such as the National Domestic Violence Hotline, battered women's shelters, and increased trainings for police, prosecutors and court officials have all contributed to the decline in domestic violence since VAWA was first authorized in 1994.

A major VAWA program is the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA). FVPSA provides for life-saving emergency shelters, crisis lines, counseling, victim assistance, and programs for underserved communities. These programs are at the heart of our response to domestic violence. Over the last twenty years, shelters have evolved to provide a wide spectrum of services, from helping a woman start a savings account to arranging transportation for her to get to work. There are currently more than 2000 community-based domestic violence programs for victims and their children. These programs provide emergency shelter to approximately 300,000 women and children annually. They also provide services such as counseling, legal assistance, and preventative education to more than 57 million women, men and children annually.

[Insert information, statistics, and/or stories describing the need for VAWA in YOUR community.]

Without these VAWA programs, women and children in *[your Congressional district]* cannot access the services they need to escape from violence.

In order to successfully meet the needs of victims of domestic violence, VAWA must be reauthorized. On behalf of *[name of your organization]* representing the interests of victims of domestic violence in *[state, county, city]*, we urge you to support the reauthorization of all VAWA programs. **Please do all you can to ensure that VAWA programs are reauthorized.**

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact *[your name and program]*. I would appreciate it if you would inform me of your position on VAWA. Thank you for your time, and I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

[Your Name & Organization]