

# **SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA) FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES ACT (FVPSA)**

*Note: If possible, start your letter with a short reference to a recent article (within the last five days) in the paper about VAWA or about an incidence of violence against a woman in your community. If you do not know of a recent story, search your newspaper's website for "violence against women act." If there has been recent coverage, start your letter with a reference to the headline and the date it was published. Keep your final letter to less than 200 words.*

To the Editor,

In reference to your article, **HEADLINE**, on **DATE**, **ORGANIZATION** is urging our community and our elected officials to support the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the Family Violence Prevention Act (FVPSA).

VAWA and FVPSA save lives, support families, and need to be reauthorized. A strong VAWA reauthorization bill (H.R. 6545) has been introduced in the House to improve the safety of survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Further, a non-controversial, straight reauthorization of FVPSA (S.2784 / H.R.6014) has been introduced in both the House and the Senate.

Around the country, one in five women has been raped in her lifetime; one in three women will experience domestic violence – and more than three women are murdered by their partners every day; and domestic violence is the immediate cause of homelessness for almost half of homeless women. In our own community **[INSERT LOCAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS]**.

As an organization serving women and families in **TOWN/CITY**, we strongly support the reauthorization of VAWA (H.R. 6545) and FVPSA (S.2784 / H.R.6014). It is crucial that we know where our candidates and elected officials stand when it comes to preventing gender-based violence and protecting survivors.

Make sure that every candidate for office can tell you:

- (1) what they will do to prevent and ed violence against women,
- (2) whether they support reauthorization of VAWA and FVPSA, and
- (3) what services they believe survivors need, and how they will ensure those needs are met.

Every current Member of Congress should also publicly declare their support for the reauthorization of VAWA and FVPSA.

It's time to take the politics out of domestic violence and hold Congress accountable for helping to make sure all survivors are safe and free from violence and fear.

**NAME**

**TITLE, ORGANIZATION**

(Include your phone number and email address. Some newspapers ask for a physical address as well, but none of that will be published.)