



*Giving Your Values a Voice*

---

**Christine Dawe**  
Deputy Policy Director

P.O. Box 14664  
Richmond, Virginia 23221  
[publicpolicy@APVonline.org](mailto:publicpolicy@APVonline.org)

September 27, 2012

Dear Member of Congress,

The Alliance for Progressive Values supports S. 1925 (Leahy), The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2011 (VAWA).

This month marks the 18th anniversary of the bill first introduced by current Vice President Joe Biden. Since it was signed into law in 1994 VAWA has expanded to help survivors of domestic violence (whether between married couples or other domestic relationships including violence against men), sexual assault and stalking. VAWA has served as the basis for groundbreaking protections for immigrant and Native American survivors as well as a source of prevention programs targeted toward adolescents.

The version of VAWA approved by the House of Representatives merely continues the current language from the existing legislation, and does not take into account the changing nature of 21<sup>st</sup> century society or acknowledge the many communities that could benefit from protection under the law. It is essential that Congress pass the version of VAWA approved by the Senate which will further broaden the protections and services currently authorized by VAWA to include the LGBTQ community, Native Americans in tribal regions, and college students who currently have few legal options available after they have been devastated by violence.

The protection of survivors of violent acts should not be a partisan issue. APV strongly urges Congress to put aside politics for the well-being of all its citizens and pass the expanded protections offered by S.1925.

Sincerely,

Christine Dawe