



Violence Against Women's Act Update!

I am so pleased and proud to provide you all with the following update regarding the status of the **Violence Against Women's Act**.

On March 7, 2013, President Barack Obama signed legislation re-authorizing the **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)** into law!

The **Violence Against Women Act** funds law enforcement efforts as well as educational and community programs to prevent domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and to provide assistance to victims. In addition to new teen dating violence provisions, the reauthorization bill makes several updates to the law, including an expanded focus on sexual assault; new tools to identify and manage high-risk offenders and prevent domestic violence homicides; more robust housing protections for victims; and new measures to promote accountability in the use of **VAWA** funds. The law authorizes some \$659 million a year over five years for programs that strengthen the criminal justice system's response to crimes against women and some men, such as transitional housing, legal assistance, law enforcement training, and hotlines. One element of this year's renewal focuses on ways to reduce sexual assault on college campuses. It also reauthorizes the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, adds stalking to the list of crimes that make immigrants eligible for protection, and authorizes programs to reduce the backlog in rape investigations.

A very special Thank You to all of you who support the work of the Women's Resource Center everyday and those who were able to make your voices heard on this critical legislation.

With your continued support my staff and I will continue to dedicate ourselves to creating a more peaceful world for every woman, child, and man.

Peace.

Ann E. Ellsworth
Executive Director

(This update was compiled from news articles and press releases following the signing of this important legislation including but not limited to the Associated Press).