

Comment of Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.)

**Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary,
on the Department of Homeland Security's Release of New Regulations Under the Leahy-Crapo
Violence Against Women Act
February 28, 2014**

[Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) on Friday praised the Department of Homeland Security for taking steps to carry out a provision in the Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, which was [signed into law](#) last year, requiring that all DHS facilities comply with the Prison Rape Elimination Act to prevent sexual assault in their facilities. Additional information about today's announcement can be found [online](#).]

“This step by DHS marks important progress toward fulfilling the mission of the Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Act to protect all victims from sexual assault and domestic violence. As I have said many times, ‘a victim is a victim is a victim.’ The law that Senator Crapo and I authored was designed to protect all victims. That includes doing all we can to prevent the sexual assault and abuse of immigrants in our detention facilities. As we approach the one-year anniversary of the enactment of the Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Act, the Obama administration’s action today is an important reminder that we must always strive to do more to protect all victims. I look forward to continuing to work with DHS to ensure that they are doing all they can to protect those in their custody.”

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