



**END  
SEXUAL  
VIOLENCE**

**National Alliance to  
End Sexual Violence**

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**NEWS**

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## **NAESV Commends U.S. House of Representatives on Passage of VAWA**

Today, The United States House of Representatives approved the bipartisan Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), S. 47, by a vote of 286 to 138. In an earlier vote, the House fell short of approving the House substitute by a vote of 257 to 166. The strong bipartisan vote of 78 to 22 in the Senate earlier this month influenced House Republican leadership and resulted in the agreement to bring the Senate bill to the House floor for a vote. The bill will now go to President Obama, and upon his signature, it will become law.

"The National Alliance to End Sexual Violence is thrilled with the passage of VAWA by the House today. The House has now joined the Senate in ensuring that the most vulnerable victims of sexual assault and domestic violence will be protected. Congress has signaled a new day in this nation's efforts to address the crime of rape," said Monika Johnson Hostler, Board President. Survivors, activists, state coalitions, and advocates at the nation's 1300 rape crisis centers worked together with hundreds of national partners to achieve this decisive and heartening victory. S. 47 includes critical new measures to augment the response to sexual assault including:

- Creating tools for states to address the criminal justice response to rape;
- Dedicating set-asides in the STOP and Arrest programs for sexual assault;
- Strengthening state-level VAWA planning processes;
- Renewing the Sexual Assault Services and Rape Prevention and Education programs;
- Extending first ever federal public housing protections for victims of sexual assault;
- Increasing and improving efforts to address the rape kit backlog;
- Reauthorizing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act;
- Explicitly protecting LGBT victims;
- Fortifying tribes' ability to hold offenders accountable; and
- Expanding protections for victims on college campuses

Advocates work long hours for little pay 24 hours a day at rape crisis centers in every state to address the immediate and long-term needs of victims of sexual violence and prevent future incidents of that violence. VAWA will provide the essential tools and support for that work to continue and improve. It is an exciting day for all who long for a time when sexual violence is no more and a testament to what we can accomplish when we work together.

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