



**Media Advisory:**

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**Violence Against Women Act Passes Senate; California Advocates Applaud Strong Support for Victims, Families**

Sacramento, February 12, 2013 —Senate Bill 47, the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), passed the Senate today in a vote of 78-22, with many Republicans crossing the aisle to support the embattled bill. VAWA ran aground in the 2012 session when House Republicans called for amendments that limited protections for certain victim groups: immigrant, Native American and LGBT victims. The version passed today does not contain those limited protections, and ensures that *all* domestic violence and sexual assault victims will have access to lifesaving services and protections.

California Partnership to End Domestic Violence executive director Tara Shabazz said all eyes would now be on the House of Representatives.

“VAWA has been held hostage to partisan fighting for too long,” she said. “It’s time for our legislators to acknowledge that the services it funds are vital to community safety across the country. The House must pass a strong, sustainable VAWA that protects everyone, and doesn’t discriminate between victims.”

The California Partnership applauds the Senate vote and urges the House of Representatives to act swiftly to pass a strong, bipartisan VAWA.

**Related Web Site:**

Think Progress: <http://thinkprogress.org/health/2013/02/12/1556601/senate-passes-vawa-again/?mobile=nc>

**About the Partnership**

The California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (the Partnership) is California's statewide domestic violence coalition, with organizational and individual members

across the state. Working at the local, state and national levels for nearly 30 years, the Partnership has a long track record of successfully passing over 100 pieces of legislation on behalf of domestic violence victims and their children. The Partnership believes that by sharing expertise, advocates and legislators can end domestic violence. Every day we inspire, inform and connect all those concerned with this issue, because together we're stronger. With offices in Sacramento, the Partnership's member programs span the entire state.

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