



## **Media Advisory:**

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## **California Legislators Urge Congress to Pass Strong Violence Against Women Act**

Sacramento, February 11, 2013 —Today legislators in the California Senate and Assembly passed three resolutions urging federal lawmakers to pass a strong, bipartisan Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), recognizing the importance of VAWA as the cornerstone of the federal response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. The popular and formerly bipartisan bill ran into trouble in the 2012 session, when House Republicans called for amendments to the Senate bill that limited protections for certain victim groups: immigrant, Native American and LGBT victims. VAWA passed the Senate but died in the House at the end of last session, and will be voted on again by the Senate this week.

The three California resolutions—Senate Resolution 8 (Yee); Senate Joint Resolution 2 (Jackson); and Assembly Joint Resolution 8 (Perez and Lowenthal), ask Congress to reauthorize VAWA in a way that protects all victims and ensures the sustainability of the essential programs VAWA funds. California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (the Partnership) executive director Tara Shabazz thanked the California Legislature on behalf of her agency's statewide membership.

“VAWA cannot be sacrificed to partisan fighting in DC” she said. “Our communities count on VAWA programs to reduce crime and support victims. The safety of families must come first.”

The Partnership and its member programs commend our legislators for taking a strong stand on VAWA, and advocating for victims and families across the state.

### **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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