

NCAVP ALERT



National Advocacy
for Local LGBTQH Communities

May 16, 2012

NCAVP deeply disappointed with the House of Representatives' passage of H.R. 4970 today

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs ([NCAVP](#)), a coalition of LGBTQ-specific anti-violence programs, is deeply disappointed with the House of Representatives' passage of H.R. 4970 today. This legislation deletes all of the vital protections designed to increase the safety of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) survivors of violence that were included in the Senate passed version of the bill (S. 1925). H.R. 4970 also contains damaging provisions that roll back years of progress aimed at protecting the safety of Native women, immigrants and other marginalized communities, weakens provisions in the Senate bill to protect victims in public housing, and strips the rights of community stakeholders to give input on VAWA programs.

This bill represents such a significant roll back on the protections for victims of violence in the United States that the Obama Administration issued a [statement saying if presented with the bill, his senior advisors would recommend he veto it](#) and noting that the H.R. 4970 "fails to include language that would prohibit discrimination against LGBT victims in VAWA grant programs. No sexual assault or domestic violence victim should be beaten, hurt, or killed because they could not access needed support, assistance, and protection." In fact, the bill has been soundly rejected as dangerous to survivors and victims of violence by more than 325 diverse organizations and leaders representing millions of constituents throughout the country, including the National Organization for Women, the ACLU, the UAW, the American Bar Association, HRC, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the Coalition Against Religious Discrimination, 60 Mayors throughout the country, and multiple law enforcement bodies.

Despite today's 222-205 vote, we applaud the courage of the 23 Republicans who crossed party lines to vote against this dangerous bill and the 182 Democrats who stood with all victims of violence. The outcry of advocates from across the country resulted in significant bipartisan opposition to the bill. NCAVP will continue to work towards a strong, bipartisan final bill that builds on VAWA's successes and strengthens protections for LGBTQ, and all, survivors of violence.

NCAVP works to prevent, respond to, and end all forms of violence against and within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and HIV-affected (LGBTQH) communities. NCAVP is a national coalition of local member programs, affiliate organizations and individuals who create systemic and social change. NCAVP is a program of the [New York City Anti-Violence Project](#).

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