

NCAVP ALERT



National Advocacy
for Local LGBTQH Communities

February 02, 2012

NCAVP Applauds LGBTQ-Inclusive Anti-Violence Bill Passed By Senate Judiciary Committee

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs ([NCAVP](#)), the nation's only coalition of LGBTQ-specific anti-violence advocates, applaud the Senate Judiciary Committee for passing the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) that, for the first time, includes specific protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. These provisions acknowledge the specific needs of LGBTQ survivors as underserved populations, create non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ survivors and increase state funds to address LGBTQ survivors' safety and support.

This bill recognizes that all survivors of violence deserve the same protections – and that LGBTQ people face barriers because of their sexual orientation and gender identity that must be addressed to move forward from violence and increase safety. NCAVP, working in coalition with the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women, the Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the LGBT Bar Association, the Center for American Progress, and local anti-violence advocates, has successfully advocated for these changes to VAWA based on the experiences of NCAVP members about the impact that violence has on LGBTQ people.

When faced with violence, many LGBTQ survivors have nowhere to go. Only 1.5% of all victim services organizations in the U.S. are LGBTQ-specific. In a 2010 report with the National Center for Victims of Crime, NCAVP found that the vast majority of mainstream service providers and law enforcement do not have the programs or expertise they need to reach LGBTQ survivors of violence. The study showed that more than 90% of all mainstream providers were not engaged in outreach to the LGBTQ communities, lacked the cultural competency to effectively work with LGBTQ survivors or did not have relationships with LGBTQ-specific organizations.

Even when LGBTQ survivors do reach out for support, they face widespread discrimination. In a 2011 NCAVP survey, 85% of service providers working with LGBTQ survivors reported that their clients were denied services such as shelter, crisis intervention, police or legal response, because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

VAWA, a bipartisan reauthorization bill, was introduced by Sens. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Mike Crapo (R-ID). We applaud the Senate Judiciary Committee for passing an inclusive VAWA that will address the needs of LGBTQ survivors – 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](#).

###