

NCAVP ALERT



National Advocacy
for Local LGBTQH Communities

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Contacts: Terra Slavin 323.993.7651
Sharon Stapel 212.714.1184

NCAVP Commends Introduction of LGBTQ-Inclusive VAWA (S. 1925) into U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee; Praises the Leadership of Senator Leahy and Senator Crapo; Calls for Senate and House to Pass the Bill

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs ([NCAVP](#)) commends Senator Leahy and Senator Crapo for the introduction of Senate Bill 1925 to [re-authorize the Violence Against Women Act](#) (VAWA) which for the first time ever includes explicit sexual orientation and gender identity protections. The Bill was introduced into the Judiciary Committee of the United States Senate on November 30th, 2011. This historic legislative action for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) communities comes as a direct result of tireless efforts on the part of NCAVP members, who since the summer of 2009 have advocated, along with the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (NTF), for explicit protections for LGBTQ survivors of intimate violence, dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking. NCAVP was the first LGBTQ organization to join NTF's VAWA re-authorization steering committee and, in coalition with other national LGBTQ organizations, has been leading the efforts to ensure that the next version of VAWA that will be re-authorized will include protections for LGBTQ survivors.

Since its passage in 1994, VAWA funding has provided billions of dollars for life saving services that support survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking across the nation, however these services are not consistently available to LGBTQ survivors. NCAVP's recent national [report](#) *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV-Affected Intimate Partner Violence in the United States in 2010* showcases the critical need for an LGBTQ-inclusive VAWA. In 2010, NCAVP programs received a total of 5,052 reports of intimate partner violence, an increase of 38.1% from the 3,658 reports in 2009. These reports documented 6 homicides, and in 2011 NCAVP has already tracked 7 LGBTQ intimate partner violence homicides. More survivors in 2010 (44.6%) were turned away from shelter than in 2009 (34.8%). Additionally, NCAVP saw that 54.4% of LGBTQ survivors seeking an order of protection were denied one.

An LGBTQ-inclusive VAWA is essential to ensuring the LGBTQ survivors have access to life saving services, continued advocacy and support. While Senate Bill 1925's introduction into the Judiciary Committee of the Senate is cause for celebration, more action is needed to ensure its passage.

ACTION STEPS

Support Commitment to LGBTQ Survivors: Contact Senator Patrick Leahy (VT) 202-224-4242 and Senator Mike Crapo (ID) 202-224-6142 and let them know you appreciate their leadership on introducing VAWA and their commitment to including LGBTQ people.

Report Violence: NCAVP encourages anyone who has experienced violence to contact a local anti-violence program and encourages all LGBTQH and anti-violence organizations to contribute data to NCAVP's annual national reports.

Get Involved: Join NCAVP in our efforts to prevent and respond to LGBTQH violence. To learn more about our national advocacy, receive technical assistance and support, or locate an anti-violence program in your area, [contact us](#).

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.
