May 2, 2012

Please forward!

ACT NOW – the House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee will be considering VAWA next week!

Please call your U.S. Representative today to express **strong opposition to the Cantor-Adams version of the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization** (H.R. 4970) that was introduced last week. It weakens or deletes entirely some of the vital improvements in the Senate bill, including the strong provisions that are designed to increase the safety of Native women and the needs of the LGBT community. The bill also contains damaging provisions that create obstacles for immigrant victims seeking to report crimes, increase danger for immigrant victims by eliminating important confidentiality protections, undermine effective anti-fraud protections, and roll back years of progress to protect the safety of immigrant victims.

The Senate bill that was passed on April 26, 2012 was the product of significant input from experts in the law enforcement and advocacy fields, and was only introduced after the many interested communities had had a chance to review it, and offer suggestions, and improvements, and raise concerns. The House has the opportunity to conduct a similarly deliberative process, and we hope that like the Senate, the result will be a strong bi-partisan bill that strengthens protections for all survivors of violence.

We must tell our legislators that we oppose the Cantor-Adams bill and want to see a bipartisan bill that includes ALL victims. The House of Representatives is in recess this week so it's a good time to tell reach out to them.

ACTION: Call your representative and tell them: *"We oppose the Cantor/Adams proposal because it doesn't include protections for all victims. We support a bill that is closer to HR 4271 with improvements, including those provisions in the bi-partisan Senate bill that protects Tribal victims, immigrant victims, LGBTQ victims and other marginalized communities."*

Find your Representative through http://www.house.gov/