

[NOTE: Address the letter below to your Senator or Member of the House of Representatives – you can find their addresses here: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative> (House member) and here [https://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm) (Senators)]

Dear [insert name of Senator or House member],

I am writing to let you know that I am a constituent of yours and live at the following address: [Insert your home address].

As a constituent, I want you to know that I strongly support reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). As a result of the United States federal government shutdown of 2018–2019, funding for the Violence Against Women Act expired on December 21, 2018. It was temporarily reauthorized by a short-term spending bill on January 25, 2019, but expired again on February 15, 2019 and since then the program has lacked proper funding.

Bills that would reauthorize the VAWA have been introduced and have support in both the House and the Senate. H.R. 1585, introduced by Rep. Karen Bass in March of 2019, is a bill that would reauthorize the VAWA. The bill passed the House and was referred to the Senate in April 2019 but has not been acted on since by the Senate. There is also a related bill, S. 2843, introduced by Senator Dianne Feinstein in November of 2019. It was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee and is still being considered by the Committee.

Since it was first enacted in 1994, the VAWA has represented a varied and successful approach to strengthening responses at the local, state, tribal, and federal levels to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. It provides federal grant funding to support communities across the country and helps the Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women advocate for stronger criminal laws, housing protections for victims and greater accountability for domestic violence committed on tribal lands.

I urge you to work with your colleagues, on a bipartisan basis, to move this important reauthorization forward.

Sincerely,