

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA) & FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES ACT (FVPSA)

Instructions:

- *If possible, start your letter with a short reference to a recent article (within the last five days) in the paper about VAWA or about an incidence of violence against a woman in your community. If you do not know of a recent story, search your newspaper's website for "violence against women act" or "domestic violence."*
- *Start you letter with a reference to the headline and the date it was published.*
- *Keep your final letter to less than 250 words.*
- *Check your local news outlet for submission rules, guidelines, processes.*

To the Editor,

In reference to your article, **HEADLINE**, on **DATE**, **ORGANIZATION** is urging our community and our elected officials to support the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the Family Violence Prevention Act (FVPSA). Once again, VAWA and FVPSA – and the women and families they help – are being overlooked in an effort to score political points in our current heated environment. That's wrong.

VAWA and FVPSA save lives, support families, and need to be reauthorized. A strong VAWA reauthorization bill (H.R. 6545) has been introduced in the House. Further, a non-controversial, straight reauthorization of FVPSA (S.2784 / H.R.6014) has been introduced in both the House and the Senate.

As an organization serving women and families in **TOWN/CITY**, we strongly support the reauthorization of VAWA (H.R. 6545) and FVPSA (S.2784 / H.R.6014) and call on Congress to swiftly pass these bills to maintain and strengthen protections for victims and survivors of violence. We believe that ALL Members of Congress should take steps to end gender-based violence.

It's time to take the politics out of domestic violence and hold Congress accountable for helping to make sure all survivors are safe and free from violence and fear. **[Name(s) of Member of Congress]** – where do you stand?

NAME

TITLE, ORGANIZATION

(Include your phone number and email address. Some newspapers ask for a physical address as well, but none of that will be published.)