



National Council of Jewish Women

May 14, 2012

US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 90,000 members and supporters of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), I urge you to **oppose HR 4970, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act.**

As you know, for nearly two decades Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs have helped state and local authorities keep communities safe while supporting victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The continuation and improvement of these programs is critical to maintaining the significant progress made in increased reporting and decreased deaths during the time VAWA has been in effect.

Unfortunately, HR 4970 weakens vital improvements contained in the recently passed Senate VAWA bill (S 1925), including provisions designed to increase the safety of Native American women and LGBTQ victims. Further, HR 4970 actually includes damaging provisions that roll back years of progress to protect the safety of immigrant victims. Specifically, HR 4970 will create obstacles for immigrant victims seeking to report crimes and increase danger for immigrant victims by eliminating important confidentiality protections.

Throughout our history, NCJW has worked for the elimination of, and protection from, all forms of harassment, violence, abuse, and exploitation against women. NCJW was active in the coalition supporting the original enactment of the Violence Against Women Act. Today, we are committed to ensuring that VAWA's promise is fulfilled.

NCJW strongly opposes HR 4970 and we urge all members of the House of Representatives to do the same. We urge you to instead support a VAWA reauthorization proposal, like HR 4271, that mirrors the bipartisan Senate-passed bill and includes provisions that protect Native American women, immigrant women, LGBTQ victims, and other marginalized communities.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Emily Alfano, Senior Manager of Government Relations, at emily@ncjwdc.org or 202 296 2588 x5.

Respectfully,

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