

NNEDV alarmed over House passage of harmful bill

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"We are shocked that this bill includes provisions that roll back protections for victims and significantly weakens the Violence Against Women Act," said Sue Else, NNEDV's president. "This is an unprecedented departure from this effective law's original intent. Thousands of victim advocates across the country recommended substantial improvements for the latest reauthorization, and the U.S. Senate accepted those recommendations in a bipartisan way. It is alarming that the House Judiciary Committee has not done the same."

NNEDV applauds its champions in the House, however, including Representatives John Conyers, Zoe Lofgren, Sheila Jackson Lee, Melvin Watt, Jerrold Nadler, Ted Deutch, Maxine Waters, Bobby Scott, Mike Quigley, Howard Berman, Hank Johnson, Pedro Pierluisi, Jared Polis, Linda Sanchez, Steve Cohen, Ted Poe for standing firm for all victims.

"We strongly urge those who voted in favor of this harmful legislation to reconsider and join us in supporting a bill that is more helpful to all victims and holds all perpetrators accountable," said Else. "Representatives Gwen Moore and Judy Biggert have both authored bills that more closely meet the needs of victims and should, with some key improvements, be considered on the House floor. We call on Congress to heed the voices of victims and their advocates and support a bill that makes sense. Lives are on the line, and we need nothing less than the strongest possible reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act."