**Oppose defunding the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)**

**Activist Happy Hour Call-In Script**

* "Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_ and I’m a constituent from [city, zip code] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ calling to ask what [Sen/Rep’s] \_\_\_\_\_\_ position is on defunding the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)."

**If your Rep is *opposed* to defunding VAWA**:

* "I’m very relieved to hear that [Sen/Rep] \_\_\_\_\_\_ is opposing defunding VAWA. The Violence Against Women Act, which has had such wide-spread bipartisan support, protects women, children and men who are suffering the effects of family violence. Please extend my thanks to [Sen/Rep] \_\_\_\_\_\_ for standing firm on this issue and I ask [him/her] to please urge [his/her] colleagues to do the same."

**If your Rep is in either *support* of defunding VAWA or is *undecided***:

* "VAWA programmes work to protect women, children and men who are living in crisis and suffering the effects of family violence. These programmes fund domestic violence shelters, sexual assault agencies, male victims support, children, campus programmes, elderly survivors, and those with disabilities to name but a few and they save countless lives."
* "Any person who is living in a situation of family violence needs to be supported to get help and protect themselves and VAWA recognizes that women disproportionately, are the victims of domestic harm and abuse. If they are not able to protect themselves, they in turn can’t protect their children, families, loved ones or the wider community, as we have seen recently in the circumstances surrounding the case of the San Bernardino School shooting where domestic abuse entered a school setting. Compounded by the fact that many abusers have fire-arms, defunding VAWA is both dangerous and short sighted."
* " I urge [Sen/Rep] \_\_\_\_\_\_ to support [his/her] constituent’s wish’s and oppose the defunding of VAWA."
* " Thank you for your time."

**Articles and information concerning VAWA:**

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/the-trump-effect-on-domestic-violence-whats-at-stake_us_58add2fbe4b0598627a55f71>

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/violence-against-women-act_us_58f0d81ae4b0bb9638e33428>

<http://titleix.ucr.edu/harass/vawa_factsheet.pdf>

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2017/01/leahy-denounces-sessions-position-violence-against-women>

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/apr/10/san-bernardino-school-shooting-california>