

Original Author Calls For Congress To Protect Women By Renewing Law

Today, Representative Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY) stood with Representative Gwen Moore (D-WI), Democratic Leadership, and Democratic members of the House to re-introduce the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

Rep. Slaughter is an original author of VAWA, a landmark piece of legislation that was signed into law in 1994. The law has reduced domestic violence by 67% and has resulted in a 51% increase in reporting of incidents. More than 1 million women have used the justice system to obtain protective orders against their batterers in the 18 years since the law was first enacted.

In past Congresses, both parties agreed to reauthorize the highly effective legislation. However, in the last Congress, the House majority refused to pass the bipartisan Senate version of VAWA and instead passed a partisan bill that would have stripped away legal protections for women. Rep. Slaughter called on the House Republican leadership to reauthorize the bill immediately.

“It’s inexplicable that starting last year, the House Majority decided to turn this into a partisan issue and play political games,” Rep. Slaughter said. “When we passed the Violence Against Women Act for the first time in 1994, we knew ending violence against women was a bipartisan cause. Women across America are waiting for these vital protections to be renewed, and they should not have to wait any longer.”

House Republicans refused to consider a comprehensive and bipartisan Senate renewal last session because the legislation extended protections to undocumented immigrants, Native Americans, and LGBT survivors. Rep. Slaughter and Rep. Moore, the sponsor of the legislation, have led the charge in calling on the House Majority to pass the bipartisan bill, including a press conference held last September at Susan B. Anthony Square Park in Rochester, NY. Slaughter also recently led a bipartisan letter [demanding action](#) on a comprehensive bill.

“This is America – no one should be denied protections against a domestic abuser because of their sexual orientation, their immigration status, or their race,” said Rep. Slaughter.