



# City of Carson Report to Mayor and City Council

May 15, 2012  
New Business Consent

**SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-054 SUPPORTING THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT**

Submitted by David C. Biggs  
City Manager

Approved by David C. Biggs  
City Manager

## **I. SUMMARY**

Councilmember Davis-Holmes requested this matter be placed tonight's agenda.

First authored by then-Senator Biden in 1994, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) provides funding to states and local communities to improve the criminal justice response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. VAWA supports specialized law enforcement units to investigate these crimes and helps prosecutors get dangerous offenders off the streets. Since the passage of the act, annual incidents of domestic violence have dropped by more than 60 percent.

## **II. RECOMMENDATION**

TAKE the following actions:

1. WAIVE further reading and ADOPT Resolution No. 12-054, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTING S.1925 THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT of 2011."
2. DIRECT staff to transmit an executed copy of the resolution to Congresswoman Richardson, Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein.

## **III. ALTERNATIVES**

TAKE another action the City Council deems appropriate.

## **IV. BACKGROUND**

On April 26, 2012, the Senate easily passed legislation to renew the VAWA for another four years. The bill now moves to the House, where Republicans are pushing an alternative version of the bill. VAWA has support from a broad coalition of advocacy groups.

U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont) introduced bipartisan legislation to further strengthen and improve the programs authorized under the landmark law to assist victims and survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The legislation is cosponsored by Senator Mike Crapo (R-Idaho).

This year's renewal of the 1994 law includes new provisions to protect specific groups. The bill increases the number of visas available to victims of domestic violence who are undocumented immigrants, it bans discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender victims of domestic violence, and it gives more authority to Native American tribes to address domestic violence.

Since its original passage in 1994, VAWA's focus has expanded from domestic violence and sexual assault to also include dating violence and stalking. It funds services to protect adult and teen victims of these crimes, and supports training on these issues, to ensure consistent responses across the country. One of the greatest successes of VAWA is its emphasis on a coordinated community response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; courts, law enforcement, prosecutors, victim services, and the private bar currently work together in a coordinated effort that had not heretofore existed on the state and local levels.

VAWA also supports the work of community-based organizations that are engaged in work to end domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, particularly those groups that provide culturally and linguistically specific services. Additionally, VAWA provides specific support for work with tribes and tribal organizations to end domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking against Indian women.

**V. FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

**VI. EXHIBITS**

1. S.1925: Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2011 status. (pg. 4)
2. Resolution 12-054 Supporting the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2011. (pg. 5-6)

Document3

Prepared by: Lisa Berglund, Principal Administrative Analyst

TO:Rev03-08-12

Reviewed by:

City Clerk	City Treasurer
Administrative Services	Development Services
Economic Development	Public Services

**Action taken by City Council**

Date\_\_\_\_\_ Action\_\_\_\_\_

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CONGRESS **BILLS** S. 1925

## S. 1925: Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2011

112th Congress, 2011–2012

### TRACK THIS BILL

A bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.

**Sponsor:** Sen. Patrick Leahy [D-VT]

76%

**Status:** Passed Senate

24%

Bill titles and summaries are written by the sponsor. S. stands for Senate bill.

Will it pass the House? The community prediction is **19%**.  
Log in to make a bet.

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## BILL OVERVIEW

**STATUS:**

Introduced	Nov 30, 2011
Reported by Committee	Feb 02, 2012
Passed Senate	Apr 26, 2012
Passed House	(not yet occurred)
Signed by the President	(not yet occurred)

This bill passed in the Senate on April 26, 2012 and goes to the House next for consideration.

**PROGNOSIS:** Just 21% of all Senate bills reported favorably by committee in 2009–2010 were enacted.

**TEXT:** Read Bill Text

**COSPONSORS:** show cosponsors (60)

**COMMITTEES:** Senate Committee on the Judiciary

The committee chair determines whether a bill will move past the committee stage.

**VOTES:**

On the Amendment (Klobuchar Amdt. No. 2094)  
Apr 26, 2012 3:28 p.m.. Amendment Rejected.

On the Amendment (Cornyn Amdt. No. 2086)  
Apr 26, 2012 3:56 p.m.. Amendment Rejected.

On the Amendment (Hutchison Amdt. No. 2095)  
Apr 26, 2012 4:16 p.m.. Amendment Rejected.

S. 1925: Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2011  
(On Passage of the Bill)  
Apr 26, 2012 4:34 p.m.. Bill Passed.

**SUBJECT AREAS:** Use these subject areas to explore related legislation:

**Crime and Law Enforcement**  
Administrative law and regulatory procedures  
Aging  
Alaska  
Alaska Natives and Hawaiians  
Assault and harassment offenses  
Census and government statistics  
Child safety and welfare  
Civil actions and liability  
Congressional oversight

**RELATED BILLS:** H.R. 3977: Domestic Violence Judicial Support Act of 2012  
Related bills above are identified by the Congressional Research Service.

**PRIMARY SOURCE** THOMAS (The Library of Congress)  
THOMAS is updated generally one day after events occur and events since the last update may not be reflected here.

**CITATION**

EXHIBIT NO. 01



RESOLUTION NO. 12-054

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
CARSON, CALIFORNIA SUPPORTING S.1925 THE VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN ACT OF 2011

WHEREAS, first authored by then-Senator Biden in 1994, the Violence Against Women Act provides funding to states and local communities to improve the criminal justice response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking; and

WHEREAS, while tremendous progress has been made, violence is still a significant problem facing women, men, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Violence Against Women Act of 2011 addresses today's most pressing issues and builds on what we have learned over the years. We must continue moving forward to reduce violence against all women; and

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2012, the Senate easily passed legislation to renew the Violence Against Women Act of 2011 for another four years. The bill now moves to the House for introduction and review; and

WHEREAS, this year's renewal of the 1994 law includes new provisions to protect specific groups. The bill increases the number of visas available to victims of domestic violence who are undocumented immigrants, it bans discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender victims of domestic violence, and it gives more authority to Native American tribes to address domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, since its original passage in 1994, the focus of Violence Against Women Act of 2011 has expanded from domestic violence and sexual assault to also include dating violence and stalking. It funds services to protect adult and teen victims of these crimes, and supports training on these issues, to ensure consistent responses across the country; and

WHEREAS, Violence Against Women Act of 2011 emphasizes a coordinated community response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; courts, law enforcement, prosecutors, victim services, and the private bar currently work together in a coordinated effort that had not heretofore existed on the state and local levels;

EXHIBIT NO. 02

[MORE]



WHEREAS, Violence Against Women Act of 2011 also supports the work of community-based organizations that are engaged in work to end domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, particularly those groups that provide culturally and linguistically specific services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Carson, California, supports this very important legislation, S.1925 the Violence Against Women Act of 2011.

**PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of May 2012.

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Mayor Jim Dear

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City Clerk Donesia L. Gause, CMC

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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City Attorney

