

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 88

Senators Santana, Polehanki, Bayer, McMorrow, Wojno, Brinks, McCann, Alexander, Geiss, Bullock, Irwin, Moss, Chang and Hollier offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States
2 to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act.

3 Whereas, The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) aims to prevent
4 violent crimes; respond to the needs of crime victims; and increase
5 public understanding of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating
6 violence, stalking, and other related crimes. VAWA operates largely
7 through grants that provide funding to state, local, tribal, and
8 territorial governments, as well as nonprofit organizations and
9 universities; and

10 Whereas, As of February 2019, authorization for VAWA has
11 lapsed. VAWA was originally enacted in 1994 and has been

1 reauthorized by Congress three times, most recently in 2013. The
2 most recent reauthorization of VAWA was set to expire on September
3 30, 2018, but was extended to December 7, 2018, and later to
4 December 21, 2018, as part of federal budget extensions. It was
5 extended via a short-term spending bill on January 25, 2019, but
6 expired again on February 15, 2019. The United States House of
7 Representatives passed a reauthorization bill in April 2019 (H.R.
8 1585), but the bill has not been taken up in the United States
9 Senate; and

10 Whereas, The Violence Against Women Act needs to be
11 reauthorized and funded by Congress. VAWA-funded programs generally
12 cannot manage more than a short funding delay. An extended lapse in
13 authorization and funding could negatively impact local providers'
14 ability to respond to the needs of their communities; and

15 Whereas, Violence against women remains an ever-present
16 problem in our nation, and vulnerable people around the country
17 rely on programs funded by VAWA. Not reauthorizing and funding
18 these vital programs due to unrelated political gridlock and
19 dysfunction in Washington endangers the lives of Michigan
20 survivors; now, therefore, be it

21 Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of
22 the United States to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act;
23 and be it further

24 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
25 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United
26 States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan
27 congressional delegation.