

(*Washington*) – Today **Congressman John B. Larson** joined House members in reintroducing the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in the 113th Congress. Larson is an original cosponsor of the legislation, which seeks to improve our national response to domestic violence and sexual assault.

"Today's reintroduction of the Violence Against Women Act is a critical first step to ensuring that the vital programs it provides to victims and families are able to continue," said Congressman Larson. "The programs and services made possible by this act have successfully reduced rates of domestic violence, and have allowed the victims of violence to safely seek the help they need. Our nation has rightfully been focused on how to create safer communities, and the reduction of violence. Reducing domestic violence in homes helps us in those goals.

"I am proud of our state and local leaders in Connecticut who for years have made domestic violence prevention a priority. The 113th Congress now has the opportunity to reauthorize this act, and continue our mission to end domestic violence."

The Violence Against Women Act, first passed in 1994, provides funding and services for victims of domestic violence. The act also established new penalties for crimes related to domestic violence and violence against women, including interstate domestic violence and increased penalties for repeat sex offenders. Rates of domestic violence have decreased over 50 percent since VAWA was first passed.

VAWA expired at the end of 2012 after passing with strong bipartisan support in the Senate last Congress.

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