

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13
2 INTRODUCED BY F. CALF BOSS RIBS

3
4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
6 REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2013.

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8 WHEREAS, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was developed with input of advocates from
9 around the country and from all walks of life and addresses the real and most important needs of victims of
10 domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking; and

11 WHEREAS, VAWA is responsive, streamlined, and constitutionally and fiscally sound, while providing
12 strong accountability measures and appropriate federal government oversight; and

13 WHEREAS, VAWA represents the voices of women and their families and the voices of victims, survivors,
14 and advocates; and

15 WHEREAS, VAWA was first enacted in 1994 and has been the centerpiece of the federal government's
16 efforts to stamp out domestic and sexual violence, and critical programs authorized under VAWA include support
17 for victim services, transitional housing, and legal assistance; and

18 WHEREAS, domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking were once considered
19 private matters to be dealt with behind closed doors and have been brought to light; and

20 WHEREAS, VAWA has been successful because it has consistently had strong, bipartisan support for
21 nearly 2 decades; and

22 WHEREAS, while annual rates of domestic violence have dropped more than 50%, domestic violence
23 remains a serious issue, and every day in the United States, three women are killed by abusive husbands and
24 partners; and

25 WHEREAS, there is a need to maintain services for victims and families at the local, state, and federal
26 levels; and

27 WHEREAS, reauthorization of VAWA would allow existing programs to continue uninterrupted and would
28 provide for the development of new initiatives to address key areas of concern, including addressing the high
29 rates of domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual assault among women 16 to 24 years of age by combating
30 tolerant youth attitudes toward violence; improving the response to sexual assault with best practices, training,

1 and communication tools for law enforcement, as well as for health care and legal professionals; and preventing
2 domestic violence homicides through enhanced training for law enforcement, advocates, and others who interact
3 with those at risk.

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5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
6 STATE OF MONTANA:

7 (1) That the United States Congress is urged to enact the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act
8 of 2013, authored by Senator Leahy, and ensure the sustainability of vital programs designed to keep women
9 and families safe from violence and abuse.

10 (2) That the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the
11 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, and
12 each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation.

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