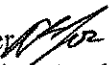


**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: February 19, 2013

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Gerry F. Miller 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 13-0002-S16
Assignment No: 13-01-0069

SUBJECT: Resolution (Garcetti - Englander) to support S. 47, the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Garcetti - Englander) to include in the City's 2013 – 2014 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for S. 47, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, which would reauthorize and expand the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.

SUMMARY

On January 25, 2013, a Resolution (Garcetti – Englander) was introduced to support S. 47 (Leahy), the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA). This legislation would reauthorize and enhance the Violence Against Women Act of 1994. The Resolution states that VAWA signaled a major shift in how our country addressed domestic violence, by focusing on an organized community response, uniting services for victims, law enforcement, and courts, in order to protect victims and hold perpetrators of domestic violence accountable. The Resolution further states that annual incidences of domestic violence have decreased 53% since VAWA was enacted.

The Resolution states that a cornerstone of VAWA has been its positive impact in underserved communities, and the updated VAWA seeks to improve services and protections for victims of violence in underserved groups, such as the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT), Native American, and immigrant communities. The Resolution, therefore, seeks an official position of the City of Los Angeles to support S. 47, The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, which will reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and expand protections for women and underserved groups throughout the United States.

BACKGROUND

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is a federal law enacted in order to end violence against women and remedy the laws and social practices that enabled a history of violence against women. VAWA was first passed in 1994, as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, and it was reauthorized in 2000 and 2005. The current authorization expired in 2011. On January 22, 2013, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 was introduced in the Senate. The bill reauthorizes the original VAWA while strengthening protections for underserved communities.

VAWA focuses on nine specific areas of intervention for prevention and prosecution of domestic violence and violence against women:

- Enhancing judicial and law enforcement tools to combat violence against women
- Improving services for victims
- Services, protection, and justice for young victims of violence
- Strengthening America’s Families by preventing violence
- Strengthening the healthcare system’s response
- Housing opportunities and safety for battered women and children
- Providing economic security for victims
- Protection of battered and trafficked immigrants
- Safety for Indian women

In addition to reauthorizing VAWA, S. 47 also extends VAWA protections to underserved groups, specifically members of the LGBT community, immigrants, and victims who live on Native American reservations. VAWA has been successful in curbing domestic violence and violence against women, and the new protections under S. 47 would help law enforcement work to further reduce domestic violence and violence against women.

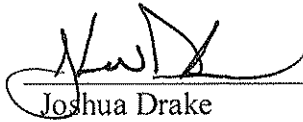
As the City of Los Angeles has a large immigrant and LGBT populations, these enhanced protections will further assist the Police Department in investigating and curtailing domestic violence and violence against women.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

Police Department

BILL STATUS

01/22/2013	Bill introduced
02/12/2013	Bill passed in Senate
02/12/2013	Bill held at table



Joshua Drake
Analyst

GFM:SMT:jwd

Attachment: Resolution (Garcetti - Englander)

13-0002-S/6

JAN 25 2013

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, introduced by then-Senator Joe Biden and Senator Orrin Hatch, signaled a major shift in how our country addresses domestic violence. The law focused on an organized community response, uniting services for victims, law enforcement, and courts, to protect victims and hold perpetrators accountable. The annual incidence of domestic violence has decreased by 53 percent since it was passed; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control, nearly one in four women report experiencing severe physical violence by an intimate partner, and nearly one in five women have been raped in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, one of the cornerstones of the Violence Against Women Act has been its positive impact in underserved communities where it has directed the necessary resources and law enforcement needed to reduce domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, the authors of the updated law seek to improve services and for victims of violence in the LGBT, Native American, and immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Senator Mike Crapo and Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy have introduced Senate Bill 47, in the 113th Congress to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, which will expand protections for women and underserved groups throughout the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2013-2014 Federal Legislative program SUPPORT for Senate Bill 47 to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.

PRESENTED BY: *E. Garcia*

SECONDED BY: *M. England*



EPA