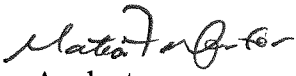


REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: NOVEMBER 8, 2019

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

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 19-0002-S182
Assignment No: 19-11-1015

SUBJECT: H.R. 1585 Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Rodriguez – Koretz) to include in the City’s 2019-2020 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for H.R. 1585 (Bass), the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019, which would reauthorize the expired Violence Against Women Act and make various improvements to the Act to meet the varied and changing needs of survivors.

SUMMARY

On October 29, 2019, the Resolution (Rodriguez – Koretz) was introduced in support for H.R. 1585 (Bass), the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019, which would reauthorize grant programs under the Violence Against Women Act as well as expand critical protections for vulnerable populations such as youth, Native American women, LGBTQ persons, and survivors who lack shelter. The Resolution states that nearly one in four women report experiencing physical violence by an intimate partner and 45 percent of women killed in the United States die at the hands of an intimate partner. Vulnerable populations continue to face barriers to receiving services, and many undocumented immigrants are reluctant to report these crimes because of fear of deportation.

The Resolution recommends support for H.R. 1585 (Bass), which would reauthorize the expired Violence Against Women Act and make various improvements to the Act to meet the varied and changing needs of survivors.

BACKGROUND

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was first enacted in 1994 and signed into law by President Bill Clinton in response to the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence, and the significant impact of such violence on the lives of women. Over the years, VAWA has improved the criminal justice system’s ability to keep victims safe and hold predators accountable as well as provide victims with critical services, such as transitional housing and legal assistance. Since VAWA was signed into law, over \$7 billion in federal grants have been issued to state and local governments to facilitate programs that prevent domestic violence, sexual assault and dating violence. The law has since been reauthorized three times in 2000, 2005, and 2013. VAWA was most recently reauthorized in 2013 but expired on February 14, 2019 after lawmakers were unable to reach agreement on changes to the program.

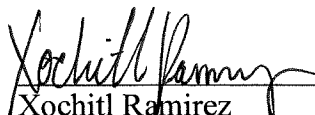
The VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2019 reauthorizes VAWA through 2024 and makes various improvements to the Act to meet the varied and changing needs of survivors in a number of ways, including:

- Expanding Services, Training, Officers and Prosecutors (STOP) VAWA grants to include additional community resources for response to incidences of domestic violence.
- Increasing SMART Prevention Grant funding to support youth violence prevention education programs from \$15 million to \$45 million, each year through 2024.
- Increasing grants for combating violent crimes on campuses from \$12 million to \$16 million annually.
- Supporting training in early childhood programs on domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.
- Expanding gun buying restrictions to include individuals with a misdemeanor conviction of domestic abuse or stalking.
- Preserving and expanding housing protections for survivors.
- Enhancing law enforcement tools and safeguards for the Office on Violence Against Women within the U.S. Department of Justice.
- Adding a new provision that would allow tribal courts to prosecute non-native people accused of domestic crimes or dating violence on tribal lands.

On April 4, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2019 on a 263 to 158 vote but currently awaits Senate approval. Republicans oppose the bill for several reasons including the inclusion of protections for transgender people and a provision that would prohibit those convicted of misdemeanor charges of stalking or domestic abuse from purchasing firearms.

BILL STATUS

03/07/19	Introduced in House
03/27/19	Amended by the Committee on Judiciary
04/04/19	Passed in House (263-158)


Xochitl Ramirez
Analyst

SMT:xr

Attachment: 1. Resolution (Rodriguez – Koretz)

RESOLUTION RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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, according to a 2018 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence survey conducted by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly 52.2 million women experience some form of sexual violence in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, nearly one in four women report experiencing physical violence by an intimate partner and 45 percent of women killed in the United States die at the hands of an intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, vulnerable populations continue to face barriers to receiving services, and many undocumented immigrants are reluctant to report these crimes because of fear of deportation; and

WHEREAS, currently pending in Congress is H.R. 1585 (Bass), the "Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019," which would reauthorize grant programs under the Violence Against Women Act as well as expand critical protections for vulnerable populations such as youth, Native American women, LGBTQ persons, and survivors who lack shelter; and

WHEREAS, the Violence Against Women Act was first enacted in 1994 and signed into law by President Bill Clinton in response to the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence, and the significant impact of such violence on the lives of women; and

WHEREAS, the law has since been reauthorized four times with the last being the 2013 Act which expired on, February 14, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Violence against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019 was approved by the House in April 2019 and currently awaits Senate approval;

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 2019-2020 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for H.R. 1585 (Bass), the "Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019," which would reauthorize the expired Violence Against Women Act and make various improvements to the Act to meet the varied and changing needs of survivors.

19-0002-5182

PRESENTED BY: _____
MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

OCT 29 2019 1

SECONDED BY: _____