



February 11, 2013

The Honorable
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator,

On behalf of our 500,000 members nationwide, Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC) wishes to express our support for Senator Tom Coburn's (R-Oklahoma) amendment to the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

Sen. Coburn's amendment would eliminate a number of duplicative Department of Justice (DOJ) programs. Streamlining and eliminating overlapping programs will ensure that limited resources are prioritized towards victims truly in need.

Additionally, this amendment will use the savings from duplicative programs to eliminate the backlog of unanalyzed DNA from sexual assault, rape, kidnapping, and other criminal cases. The backlog of unanalyzed DNA cases has been a growing concern for the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office on Violence Against Women among others. Sen. Coburn's amendment focuses resources to begin to resolve this problem.

In past VAWA reauthorizations, the legislation has failed to ensure that the money being spent is not wasted on ineffective programs. In random audits by the Inspector General, repeated irregularities and misconduct were found, including unauthorized and unallowable expenses in 21 of 22 grants. Sen. Coburn's amendment will provide the needed oversight and accountability for the VAWA funding.

For the aforementioned reasons, CWALAC supports Sen. Coburn's amendment to VAWA. If it is considered on the Senate floor, CWALAC respectfully requests you to vote in its favor.

Sincerely,

Penny Young Nance
Chief Executive Officer and President
Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee