

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 11, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 8**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members John A. Pérez and Lowenthal**  
*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Bloom, Blumenfeld, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Bonta, Bradford, Brown, Buchanan, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chesbro, Cooley, Dahle, Daly, Dickinson, Fong, Fox, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gordon, Gorell, Gray, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Holden, Hueso, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Linder, Logue, Maienschein, Medina, Mitchell, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Nestande, Olsen, Pan, Patterson, Perea, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Salas, Skinner, Stone, Ting, Torres, Waldron, Weber, Wieckowski, Wilk, Williams, and Yamada)*

January 31, 2013

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 8—Relative to violence against women.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 8, as amended, John A. Pérez. Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act.

This measure would urge the President to sign and Congress to pass the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act and ensure the sustainability of vital programs designed to keep women and families safe from violence and abuse.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The federal Violence Against Women Act
- 2 (VAWA) was developed with the input of advocates from around

1 the country with diverse backgrounds and experiences, and  
2 addresses the real and most important needs of victims of domestic  
3 violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking; and

4 WHEREAS, VAWA represents the voices of women and their  
5 families, and the voices of victims, survivors, and advocates; and

6 WHEREAS, VAWA was first enacted in 1994, and has been  
7 the centerpiece of the federal government's efforts to stamp out  
8 domestic and sexual violence. VAWA provides millions of dollars  
9 to support programs for victim services, transitional housing, and  
10 legal assistance, as well as tools that law enforcement, prosecutors,  
11 and judges need to hold offenders accountable and keep  
12 communities safe while supporting victims; and

13 WHEREAS, Domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence,  
14 and stalking, once considered private matters to be dealt with  
15 behind closed doors, have been brought out of the darkness; and

16 WHEREAS, VAWA has been successful because it has had  
17 consistently strong, bipartisan support for nearly two decades; and

18 WHEREAS, Senators Patrick Leahy and Mike Crapo and  
19 Representative Gwen Moore have introduced identical legislation,  
20 the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, in their  
21 respective houses with language that includes several updates and  
22 improvements to the law, including the following:

23 (a) An emphasis on the need to effectively respond to sexual  
24 assault crime by adding new purpose areas and a 25-percent  
25 set-aside in the STOP (Services, Training, Officers, and  
26 Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program  
27 (STOP Program) and the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and  
28 Enforcement of Protection Orders Program.

29 (b) Improvements in tools to prevent domestic violence  
30 homicides by training law enforcement, victim service providers,  
31 and court personnel to identify and manage high-risk offenders  
32 and connecting high-risk victims to crisis intervention services.

33 (c) Critical improvements that provide important protections  
34 for students, immigrant women, as well as the lesbian, gay,  
35 bisexual, and transgender and Native American communities.

36 (d) Improvements in responses to the high rate of violence  
37 against women in tribal communities by strengthening concurrent  
38 tribal criminal jurisdiction over perpetrators who assault Indian  
39 spouses and dating partners in Indian countries.

1 (e) Measures to strengthen housing protections for victims by  
2 applying existing housing protections to nine additional federal  
3 housing programs.

4 (f) Measures to promote accountability to ensure that federal  
5 funds are used for their intended purposes.

6 (g) Consolidation of programs and reductions in authorization  
7 levels to address fiscal concerns, and renewed focus on programs  
8 that have been most successful.

9 (h) Technical corrections to update definitions throughout the  
10 law to provide uniformity and continuity; and

11 WHEREAS, There is a need to maintain services for victims  
12 and families at the local, state, and federal levels. VAWA  
13 reauthorization would allow existing programs to continue  
14 uninterrupted, and would provide for the development of new  
15 initiatives to address key areas of concern. These initiatives include  
16 the following:

17 (a) Addressing the high rates of domestic violence, dating  
18 violence, and sexual assault among women 16 to 24 years of age,  
19 inclusive.

20 (b) Improving the response to sexual assault with best practices,  
21 training, and communication tools for law enforcement, as well  
22 as for health care and legal professionals.

23 (c) Preventing domestic violence homicides through enhanced  
24 training for law enforcement, advocates, and others who interact  
25 with those at risk; now, therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
27 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature requests the President to  
28 sign and Congress to pass the Violence Against Women  
29 Reauthorization Act and ensure the sustainability of vital programs  
30 designed to keep women and families safe from violence and abuse;  
31 and be it further

32 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
33 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
34 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the  
35 Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative  
36 from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the  
37 author for appropriate distribution.

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