



# Fact Sheet

Senator Jay Rockefeller, West Virginia

## Violence Against Women Act

*As cosponsor of the original Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 1994 and each reauthorization, Senator Rockefeller is committed to preserving and strengthening programs that have improved our state and national response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.*



### **What VAWA does for West Virginia**

- Enables services and support to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Helps establish arrest policies when police receive domestic violence complaints.
- Provides legal assistance to victims.
- Provides training of court personnel and law enforcement to improve response efforts.



### **Key statistics**

- West Virginia received \$3.9 million in VAWA funding in FY 2012 to support women, men, children and families.
- The annual incidence of domestic violence has dropped more than 50% since VAWA became law.
- Since VAWA was enacted, reporting of domestic violence has increased as much as 51% - which means more victims are coming forward.

### **What a strong reauthorization would accomplish**

- Renew programs that help law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim service providers keep victims safe and hold perpetrators accountable.
- Increase focus on sexual assault and efforts to prevent domestic violence homicides.
- Expand protections for underserved communities.
- Enable West Virginia to qualify for additional funding under the Rural Grants Program.

### **Why it's needed**

- In 2010, 14,880 domestic violence cases were filed in West Virginia Family Court.
- Every 9 minutes, a call is made to a domestic violence hotline.
- 1/3 of all homicides in West Virginia are related to domestic violence.

