

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) delivered remarks at a press conference on the reintroduction of the Violence Against Women Act.

“Domestic violence prevention has always been an area where Democrats and Republicans work together,” **stated Congressman Hoyer**. “I continue to urge both parties to work to pass a bipartisan bill that protects all victims of domestic violence and does more to prevent those crimes. As a cosponsor of the original Violence Against Women Act in 1994, and as a father of three daughters, a grandfather of two granddaughters, and the great-grandfather of a great-granddaughter, this bill is personal for me, but also personal for every American. Let’s get it done without delay.”

The original Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) provided effective, long-term support for domestic violence victims and gave law enforcement the tools needed to combat violence. Since it became law, the annual incidence of domestic violence has dropped more than 50 percent and reporting of domestic violence has increased by as much as 51 percent. VAWA failed to secure reauthorization in the last Congress. Congressman Hoyer has continued to urge the House to pass a bipartisan bill as soon as possible.