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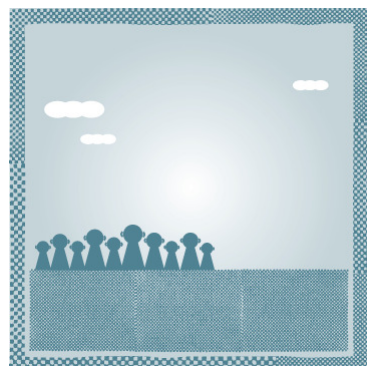
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Violence Against Women Act Stalls - NOW Condemns House Version

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Length: 00:02:00

CHICAGO - The Violence Against Women Act has been renewed twice with bipartisan support since originally passed in 1994, but this year's reauthorization has become the object of an election-year political battle. The Senate passed a version of the bill that includes immigrants, Native Americans, and GLBT victims of domestic abuse, while the House passed a version that excluded those protections. [Read the full description. \(#description\)](#)

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The National Organization for Women (NOW) has issued [a statement \(http://tinyurl.com/7kd2qjv\)](http://tinyurl.com/7kd2qjv) condemning the House bill because of the exclusions. Leaders of more than 30 religious groups are also opposed to the House version, because they say it rolls back current protections for immigrant victims of domestic abuse. House Republican leaders say their bill protects all victims, and there is no reason to single out certain groups.

Illinois Senator Dick Durbin was one of the co-sponsors of the bipartisan Senate bill that Mary Pollock, a NOW legislative vice president, says her group prefers.

"It's the bill that we want, and the Republicans seem to be dead set against anything that women's rights advocates want."

Proponents of the Senate bill cited studies that show the rate of domestic abuse among lesbian, homosexual and transgender people to be about the same as in the general population, yet that abuse is reported less. That's why Dawn Dalton says the House bill should not have excluded them.

"We've got to be able to include the victims that need the services. There's no cutting back that we should be doing. It's only improving and broadening the reach."

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President Obama has threatened to veto anything that looks like the House version.

The NOW statement is at: [tinyurl.com/7kd2qjv \(http://tinyurl.com/7kd2qjv\)](http://tinyurl.com/7kd2qjv).

The Senate bill is S.1925; House bill is H.R. 4970.

Violence Against Women Act Stalls - NOW Condemns ... | 00:02:00

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ST. PAUL, Minn. - Police departments in Minnesota and across the nation are seeing a connection between the sluggish economy and an increase in domestic violence.

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Piece Description

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