

International Violence Against Women Act (I-VAWA) S.2279

Sample Letter-to-the-Editor

The following letter is designed for advocates to distribute to a local newspaper - please make whatever changes you can to personalize or localize it, and submit it to just one daily or weekly newspaper in your market. Speaking Up readers in Delaware and Indiana should modify the letter to thank Senators Biden and Lugar for sponsoring I-VAWA.

[Date]

To The Editor:

We all read about the horrors in Darfur, the Democratic Republic of Congo and elsewhere, and feel helpless to stop the terrible violence against women and girls that seems to get worse every day. But now there is something we can do. On October 31st, as “Domestic Violence Awareness Month” was ending, Senators Joseph Biden (D-DE) and Richard Lugar (R-IN) took a major step to protect women and girls around the world by introducing the *International Violence Against Women Act (I-VAWA)*, which would give our government powerful new tools to combat the global crisis of violence against women.

This legislation would: support efforts to change attitudes on violence against women; create a central office to coordinate the United States’ policies, programs and resources that deal with women’s issues; provide a funding stream to support programs working to end violence against women around the world; support health programs and survivor services, especially in crisis situations; and more.

Violence against women is a tremendous human rights problem. Experts estimate that up to one in three women will be beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in their lifetimes, with rates reaching 70 percent in some countries. *I-VAWA* can make a difference by giving victims more support, holding perpetrators accountable, empowering women, and supporting new efforts to change cultural norms that support or condone violence.

I hope everyone who wants violence against women and girls to stop will support this legislation, and encourage both our Senators to join Senators Biden and Lugar in doing so as well.

Sincerely,

[Your name, title, organization, and telephone number (not for publication)]