

**Legislative and Political Committee
Recommendation No. 04**

**Based On
Resolution**

Proposed By: Cindy Hoehl-Rinker, Local 321

In Support of Reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

WHEREAS, the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA), since it was initially signed by President Bill Clinton, has provided crucial support to women victimized by violence, by providing billions of dollars for the investigation and prosecution of violent crimes against women, by imposing automatic and mandatory restitution on those convicted, by allowing civil redress in cases prosecutors chose to leave unprosecuted, and by establishing an Office of Violence Against Women within the Department of Justice; and

WHEREAS, VAWA was initially drafted by then Senator Joseph Biden, with support from a broad coalition of advocacy groups, and was passed by Congress in 1994 with strong bipartisan support; and

WHEREAS, VAWA was reauthorized by Congress in 2000, and again in 2005; and

WHEREAS, earlier this year, the Senate passed an important reauthorization of VAWA's life-saving programs that has the full support of women's rights and anti-violence advocates; and

WHEREAS, the Senate bill would consolidate some programs to reduce costs, while also expanding services for various underserved populations on Native American reservations, on college campuses, among immigrants, and in lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender communities; and

WHEREAS, a bill now being supported by House Republicans would fundamentally transform VAWA, by slashing resources, by imposing new and unnecessary costs on service providers, and by rejecting VAWA's victim-centered response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, while exposing victims and survivors to the risk of heightened violence; and

WHEREAS, the VAWA's reauthorization is necessary to support the struggle, sacrifice, and courage of victims of violence;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Postal Mail Handlers Union urges the House of Representatives to adopt the VAWA reauthorization that already has been adopted by the U.S. Senate, so that this important piece of reauthorizing legislation can be signed by the President and enacted into law.