

achieving justice, they are also a reminder of the wide impact that domestic violence has on the community at large including law enforcement. In each of our cities, police officers have been injured or murdered while responding to domestic violence incidents.

For these reasons, we believe that it is critical that the Senate move quickly to take up and pass S. 1925 in order to strengthen our national commitment to all victims of domestic violence.

Sincerely,

RAHM EMANUEL,
Mayor, City of Chicago.

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA,
Mayor, City of Los Angeles.

MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG,
Mayor, City of New York.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL,
Washington, DC, January 11, 2012.

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, Since its passage in 1994, the Violence Against Women Act ("VAWA") has shined a bright light on domestic violence, bringing the issue out of the shadows and into the forefront of our efforts to protect women and families. VAWA transformed the response to domestic violence at the local, state and federal level. Its successes have been dramatic, with the annual incidence of domestic violence falling by more than 50 percent.

Even though the advancements made since in 1994 have been significant, a tremendous amount of work remains and we believe it is critical that the Congress reauthorize VAWA. Every day in this country, abusive husbands or partners kill three women, and for every victim killed, there are nine more who narrowly escape that fate. We see this realized in our home states every day. Earlier this year in Delaware, three children—ages 12, 2½ and 1½—watched their mother be beaten to death by her ex-boyfriend on a sidewalk. In Maine last summer, an abusive husband subject to a protective order murdered his wife and two young children before taking his own life.

Reauthorizing VAWA will send a clear message that this country does not tolerate violence against women and show Congress' commitment to reducing domestic violence, protecting women from sexual assault and securing justice for victims.

VAWA reauthorization will continue critical support for victim services and target three key areas where data shows we must focus our efforts in order to have the greatest impact:

Domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual assault are most prevalent among young women aged 16–24, with studies showing that youth attitudes are still largely tolerant of violence, and that women abused in adolescence are more likely to be abused again as adults. VAWA reauthorization will help us break that cycle by consolidating and strengthening programs aimed at both prevention and intervention, with a particular emphasis on more effectively engaging men and local community-based resources in the process.

A woman who has been sexually assaulted can be subjected to further distress when the healthcare, law enforcement, and legal response to her attack is not coordinated and productive. Whether it is a first responder without adequate training, a rape kit that goes unprocessed for lack of funding, or a phone call between a crisis counselor and a prosecutor that never takes place, sexual assault victims deserve better. We must develop and implement best practices, training, and communication tools across dis-

ciplines in order to effectively prosecute and punish perpetrators, as well as help victims heal and rebuild their lives.

There is a growing consensus among practitioners and researchers that domestic violence homicides are predictable and, therefore, often preventable. We can save the lives of untold numbers of potential homicide victims with better training for advocates, law enforcement, and others who interact with victims to recognize the warning signs and react meaningfully.

The fight to protect women from violence is one that never ends. It is not a year-to-year issue, which is why we think it is critical that Congress reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. We know a great deal more about domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking than we did 17 years ago. Reauthorizing VAWA will allow us to build on those lessons and continue to make progress and save lives.

VAWA was last reauthorized in 2006 and time is of the essence for reauthorization of this important law. We urge Congress to take on this critical mission and reauthorize VAWA.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. "Beau" Biden III, Delaware Attorney General; Arthur Ripley Jr., American Samoa Attorney General; Dustin McDaniel, Arkansas Attorney General; John W. Suthers, Colorado Attorney General; Irvin Nathan, Washington DC Attorney General; William J. Schneider, Maine Attorney General; Tom Horne, Arizona Attorney General; Kamala Harris, California Attorney General; George Jepsen, Connecticut Attorney General; Pam Bondi, Florida Attorney General; Sam Olen, Georgia Attorney General; David Louie, Hawaii Attorney General; Lisa Madigan, Illinois Attorney General; Tom Miller, Iowa Attorney General; Jack Conway, Kentucky Attorney General.

Douglas F. Gansler, Maryland Attorney General; Bill Schuette, Michigan Attorney General; Jim Hood, Mississippi Attorney General; Steve Bullock, Montana Attorney General; Catherine Cortez Masto, Nevada Attorney General; Jeffrey Chiesa, New Jersey Attorney General; Lenny Rapadas, Guam Attorney General; Lawrence Wasden, Idaho Attorney General; Greg Zoeller, Indiana Attorney General; Derek Schmidt, Kansas Attorney General; James "Buddy" Caldwell, Louisiana Attorney General; Martha Coakley, Massachusetts Attorney General; Lori Swanson, Minnesota Attorney General; Chris Koster, Missouri Attorney General; Jon Bruning, Nebraska Attorney General; Michael Delaney, New Hampshire Attorney General; Gary King, New Mexico Attorney General.

Eric Schneiderman, New York Attorney General; Wayne Stenehjem, North Dakota Attorney General; Mike Dewine, Ohio Attorney General; John Kroger, Oregon Attorney General; Guillermo Somoza-Colombani, Puerto Rico Attorney General; Alan Wilson, South Carolina Attorney General; Robert E. Cooper, Jr., Tennessee Attorney General; Mark Shurtleff, Utah Attorney General; Vincent Frazer, Virgin Islands Attorney General; Darrell V. McGraw, Jr., West Virginia Attorney General; Greg Phillips, Wyoming Attorney General; Roy Cooper, North Carolina Attorney General; Edward T. Buckingham, Northern Mariana Islands Attorney General; Scott Pruitt, Oklahoma Attorney General; Linda L. Kelly, Pennsylvania Attorney General; Peter Kilmartin, Rhode Island Attorney General; Marty J. Jackley, South Dakota Attorney General; Greg Abbott, Texas Attorney General; William H. Sorrell, Vermont Attorney General; Rob McKenna, Washington Attorney General; J.B. Van Hollen, Wisconsin Attorney General.

EXHIBIT 2

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

S. 1925—VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2011

(Sen. Leahy, D-VT, and 60 cosponsors, Apr. 23, 2012)

The Administration strongly supports Senate passage of S. 1925 to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, a landmark piece of bipartisan legislation that first passed the Congress in 1994 and has twice been reauthorized. That Act transformed the Nation's response to violence against women and brought critically needed resources to States and local communities to address these crimes.

The Administration is pleased that S. 1925 continues that bipartisan progress and targets resources to address today's most pressing issues. Sexual assault remains one of the most underreported violent crimes in the country. The bill provides funding through State grants to improve the criminal justice response to sexual assault and to better connect victims with services. The bill also seeks to reduce domestic violence homicides and address the high rates of violence experienced by teens and young adults. Reaching young people through early intervention can break the cycle of violence.

The Administration strongly supports measures in S. 1925 that will bring justice to Native American victims. Rates of domestic violence against Native American women are now among the highest in the United States. The bill builds on the Tribal Law and Order Act—which President Obama signed on July 29, 2010—to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of tribal justice systems and will provide additional tools to tribal and Federal prosecutors to address domestic violence in Indian country. The Administration also supports the important leadership role of the Office on Violence Against Women and believes that all victims should have access to critically needed services and protections.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES COLSON

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I wish to talk for a few minutes about Chuck Colson, who was a friend of mine and the founder of Prison Fellowship Ministries. He died on Saturday at 80.

Before Chuck Colson was 40, he was counselor to the President of the United States, Richard Nixon. At about that same time, about the time he was 40, he pled guilty to offenses related to the Daniel Ellsberg break-in. When he did that, I am told, even though his lawyers advised him not to plead guilty at that moment, he said pleading guilty was "the price I had to pay to complete the shedding of my old life to be free to live the new life." In June of 1974, he began to serve his prison sentence.

What was the new life? In August of 1973, Chuck Colson's good friend Tom Phillips had counseled with him, and that was the moment Chuck Colson said he decided his life would be led as a Christian, that he would surrender his life to the Christian view and the Christian belief. He personally told me at one time that it was T.S. Eliot's writing "Mere Christianity" that then later became the intellectual basis for his faith. But initially his faith was needed more than he clearly understood he had, and he found that in his faith. It was an active faith.

I am constantly amazed that an active God can take the bad decisions people make and, while God would not have wanted those to be the decisions people make, can turn them into incredible opportunities. In the life of Chuck Colson, that incredible opportunity became the founding of Prison Fellowship Ministries and the impact it had on so many other lives.

Twenty years ago, I became the first chair of the Missouri Prison Fellowship. As Chuck Colson was reaching out and trying to see how this idea could become an idea that would sustain itself and perhaps in the future within States. As a House Member, 10 years ago, I hosted a speakers series that was the Chuck Colson speakers series, and I was able to spend time with him virtually every week for 2 or 3 months as we had people come in and visit with House Members in a great speaker series.

I personally benefited from lots of advice and discussions with him. Just to sum up a couple things about him as I reach a conclusion that doesn't begin to express the impact he had on people's lives.

He founded Prison Fellowship Ministries in 1976. He founded Justice Fellowship in 1983. They have both grown to serve literally thousands of prisoners in this country and around the world. Prisons around the world saw Chuck Colson walk into them as well to try to help people.

In 1993, he won the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion; in 1994, he was instrumental in drafting the publication and publishing a document called the "Evangelicals and Catholics Together." In 2008, he was awarded the Presidential Citizen Medal by President George W. Bush, and he is survived by a family who cared about him and lots of friends.

For almost 40 years, starting with the Mike Wallace interview—as I suppose only Mike Wallace could interview someone—there were doubters and skeptics who questioned his faith, who questioned the change in his life beginning in 1973, but of course, they questioned it less so every year. I would say, in 2012, that Chuck Colson passed any test about whom he had become. The test is both past, P-A-S-T, and passed, P-A-S-S-E-D. He won the race. Lives continue to be changed, and I would just say, I thank God for Chuck Colson, and I thank my good friend from Vermont for giving me a few moments on the floor.

TRIBUTE TO KENTUCKY STATE REPRESENTATIVE DANNY FORD

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I stand before you today to call attention to the great service of my dear friend, State Representative Danny Ford of Mt. Vernon, KY.

Danny was elected to the Kentucky House of Representatives for the first time in 1982. He represents the 80th District, which for most of his tenure

has included the counties of Pulaski, Lincoln, and Rockcastle, Danny's native county. However, Representative Ford has decided his time in Frankfort, the State's capital, will end with his current term. But based on the outstanding service to constituents he is known for, I say with confidence today that if Danny had decided to run again he would have most assuredly won.

There are few men finer than Danny, a hard-working, honest family man and a devoted student of the State government process. An auctioneer and real-estate agent by trade, Danny has worked alongside members of his family in their various Mt. Vernon businesses throughout his life. As the grandson of a former Rockcastle county judge, he is most at home when he is at home, amongst the citizens of the 80th District whom he cares about so deeply.

Danny has said that "the greatest part of my job has been helping my constituents find their way through the mazes of State government." And that is exactly what Danny did. He believes in the philosophy of being attentive and accessible. No matter what, you could always count on Danny to be ready and willing to listen to any and all of his constituents' concerns.

Danny is truly a one-of-a-kind elected official. He has his own style of politicking that sets him apart from all the rest. He was known for operating in a low-key style because he felt that if you drew attention to yourself, you would become a distraction. Danny tried to stay out of the spotlight, but that is not to say it was because he wasn't getting things done.

He was able to push legislation that fixed key issues for the people of southeastern Kentucky. He helped to build interstates, repair infrastructure, build the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame in Mt. Vernon, and pass legislation that would make police cruisers more safe for the officer by adding cages separating the front and back seat. It is safe to say that Danny Ford truly cared about the people of the 80th District.

During his time in the Kentucky House of Representatives, Danny held such titles as Republican floor leader from 1995 to 1998, Republican minority whip from 1993 to 1994, and now again in 2011. He also was the longest serving Republican in the statehouse since 1900. Danny was looked to as a leader by both sides of the aisle. His opinion was greatly respected by the right and the left. And you can bet that when Danny Ford stood up to give a speech, every ear tuned in so as not to miss a single word of his eloquent preacher-style delivery.

In one of Danny's final interviews with Kentucky Educational Television, Danny said that after he retires he would like to return to work as an auctioneer, watch his grandson's basketball games, and spend more time with his family. And it is my understanding that he will be celebrating his 60th

birthday on April 25. Happy birthday, Danny; I truly wish you and your family all the best.

At this time I would like to ask my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to join me in commemorating Kentucky State Representative Danny Ford for his contributions to the citizens of the 80th District and the great Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Recently an article was printed in the Central Kentucky News highlighting the distinctive achievements and honorable service of Representative Danny Ford during his time in public office. I ask unanimous consent that article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Central Kentucky News,
Jan. 28, 2012]

REP. DANNY FORD CALLING IT QUILTS AFTER 30 YEARS IN FRANKFORT

(By Todd Kleffman)

Even before the House had voted to approve the redistricting plan that would reshape Danny Ford's 80th District, the auctioneer from Mount Vernon grew wistful, foreshadowing the end of his 30-year legislative career before he announced his retirement.

As he was railing against the Democrats' redistricting plan on the House floor, Ford took time to "thank the people of Lincoln County for allowing me to serve as their state representative for all these past many years."

After the plan—which basically removed Lincoln from the 80th District and replaced it with Casey County and pieces of Madison—was approved, Ford let it be known that this would be his last term, ending his run as the longest-serving Republican in the statehouse since 1900.

"That new district covers 125, 150 miles instead of 50 or 60," he said. "It's going to be a lot more difficult to serve."

"That has been the greatest part of this job, helping my constituents find their way through the mazes of state government," he said last week while spending the day with a reporter at the Capitol.

Despite his lengthy time in office, Ford never became a household name to folks outside Frankfort. That's due in part to his own low-key style and the fact he toiled for the minority party in the House, which is akin to being invisible, even if you are part of the Republican leadership. Ford currently serves as minority whip, a position he also held in 1993 to 1994, and was his party's floor leader from 1995 to 1998. He is the senior member of the House Budget and Appropriations Committee.

"I try not to be out front too much. That's not my style," Ford said. "When you draw attention to yourself, you become a distraction. Sometimes it's gentle persuasion that can make a difference."

Al Cross, the long-time political writer for the Courier-Journal who now heads the Institute for Rural Journalism at the University of Kentucky, has observed Ford in action during all his time in Frankfort.

"He has been like a lot of Republican representatives: he's not that interested in government doing much, so he didn't push a lot of legislation, and, being in the minority, he wasn't interested in jumping through a lot of Democratic hoops," Cross said. "If you're not in the majority, there's not a lot you can do."

"If you ask people around Frankfort, they'd probably remember Danny most for