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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **The Daughters of Penelope Applauds U.S. Senate for Passage of Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act**

**WASHINGTON (April 27, 2012)**—The Daughters of Penelope (DOP), a leading international women’s organization, applauds the passage of S.1925, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, announced Grand President Nicky Stamoulis. The legislation received bipartisan support and passed by a vote of [68 to 31](#).

“We sincerely thank the U.S. Senate for passing this important bill,” said Stamoulis. “We thank the bill’s lead sponsors, Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont and Senator Mike Crapo of Idaho. We call on the U.S. House of Representatives to take action to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act.”

Stamoulis added, “We also thank the many Daughters of Penelope members who took the time to outreach to their U.S. senators to educate them about the importance of the bill whether it was via emails, phone calls, or by participating at our annual Capitol Hill Day.”

S.1925 had 61 bipartisan co-sponsors, one of which was U.S. Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME), who voted for S.1925.

“We thank Senator Snowe for her support of the legislation,” said Stamoulis. “She is a strong advocate for women’s issues, and her voice will be missed when she retires.”

For decades, the Daughters of Penelope has had a vested interest in the issue of domestic violence, supporting local shelters and the victims they house all across the country. In 1979, the DOP sponsored Penelope House, a nationally-recognized model shelter located in Mobile, Ala. It was the first of its kind in Alabama. In October 2009, the DOP opened its second nationally sponsored shelter, Penelope’s Place, in Brockton, Mass.

Since VAWA’s inception in 1994, reporting of domestic violence has increased as much as 51 percent and the number of individuals killed by an intimate partner has decreased by 34 percent for women and 57 percent for men. All told, annual incidence of domestic violence has decreased by more than 50 percent since its initial passage. In its first six years, VAWA has saved \$12.6 billion.



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S.1925 streamlines VAWA programs in tight budgetary times by cutting the authorization level by more than \$135 million annually, consolidating 10 programs into three, and eliminating 13 programs. The bill written by more than 2,000 professionals serving victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and supported by more than 1,000 national, state and local programs.

- To view the vote count, [please click here](#).

The mission of the DOP is to promote the ancient Greek ideals of Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, and Family and Individual Excellence through community service and volunteerism.

For more information about Penelope House, please visit [www.penelopehouse.org](http://www.penelopehouse.org). Please visit [www.daughtersofpenelope.org](http://www.daughtersofpenelope.org) for more information about the DOP or any of its programs or projects.

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