

House Resolution 391

By: Representatives Cooper of the 41st, Benfield of the 85th, Chambers of the 81st, Hill of the 180th, and Kidd of the 115th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the congressional delegation of the State of Georgia to reauthorize the Violence
2 Against Women Act in 2005; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 1994 and
4 reauthorized VAWA in 2000 to address the complex problem of domestic violence and
5 sexual assault; and

6 WHEREAS, violence against women directly affects at least one in four women across the
7 nation; and

8 WHEREAS, on average, more than three women are murdered by their partners every day
9 in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, one in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually assaulted by the age of 18;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, 40 percent of girls age 14-17 know someone their age who has been hit or
13 beaten by a boyfriend; and

14 WHEREAS, minors under the age of 18 account for 67 percent of all sexual assault
15 victimizations reported to law enforcement; and

16 WHEREAS, over eight million children in the United States witness domestic violence each
17 year; and

18 WHEREAS, 791,646 women in Georgia have been the victim of rape or attempted rape in
19 their lifetimes; and

1 WHEREAS, VAWA has employed a multidisciplinary approach involving coordinated
2 efforts between law enforcement, prosecutors, nonprofits, courts, health care providers, child
3 protective services, and service providers; and

4 WHEREAS, from 1995 to the present, Congress has appropriated almost \$3.8 billion to the
5 various programs created by VAWA; and

6 WHEREAS, from 1995 to the present, the State of Georgia has received more than \$32
7 million in VAWA funding; and

8 WHEREAS, VAWA established new criminal penalties including developing the first
9 federal offense for interstate domestic violence and stalking and doubled federal penalties
10 for repeat sex offenders; and

11 WHEREAS, the provision of STOP grants through VAWA has allowed victim service
12 organizations to assist more women throughout the country; and

13 WHEREAS, the cost of rape and sexual assault, excluding child sexual assault, per criminal
14 victimization is \$87,000.00 per year; and

15 WHEREAS, the costs of intimate partner violence are greater than \$5.8 billion per year; and

16 WHEREAS, the services provided through VAWA are estimated to save \$14.8 billion in
17 averted victimization costs; and

18 WHEREAS, there may be efforts in Congress to decrease VAWA funding and reduce the
19 amount that will be appropriated to combating domestic violence and sexual assault.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
21 the members of this body urge our elected Representatives and Senators in the United States
22 Congress to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act in 2005.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
24 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the State of Georgia's
25 congressional delegation.