

Senator John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

April 15, 2012

Dear Senator Cornyn:

The Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) supports the proposed “Justice for Victims Amendment” to S1925. VAWA Reauthorization is of critical importance to victims of sexual assault, stalking, domestic and dating violence and your proposed amendment will provide additional protections and accountability to victims.

TAASA believes the rape kit backlog is a national disgrace and we applaud all attempts to refocus the Debbie Smith Act for this primary and crucial purpose. We also appreciate the enhanced penalties for Aggravated Sexual Assault by Drugging. This all too common criminal scenario is as devastating to victims as using a lethal weapon. Additionally, the enhanced penalties for interstate sex trafficking of children is an appropriate step in our national quest to address the victimization of such a vulnerable population.

Thank you Senator Cornyn for publically addressing the serious issue of backpage.com so blatantly and effectively marketing children for prostitution. We trust that with sufficient disdain expressed by Congress they may feel the moral and ethical pressure to abandon this practice.

We are hopeful your office will work within your party and across the aisle to pass a strong and comprehensive reauthorization of VAWA bill. There are crime victims across our great state and the entire nation that are counting on our elected officials to get this right.

Respectfully,



Annette Burrhus-Clay,
Executive Director