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## Sen. Leahy:

# Stop Denying the Truth about Partner Abuse

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) recently introduced the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization, S. 47. Sen. Leahy claims he wants his bill to help “all” victims of domestic violence. But Sen. Leahy appears to be in denial about the chronic, unmet needs of male domestic violence victims.

To set the record straight, this is what major research summaries have found:

- Female initiation of intimate partner violence (IPV) is the leading reason for the woman becoming a victim of subsequent violence (1).
- Fifty-eight percent of all domestic violence is bi-directional and 42% unidirectional; 14% of the unidirectional violence is male to female, and 28% is female to male (2).
- Male and female IPV is perpetrated from similar motives - primarily to get back at a partner for emotionally hurting them, because of stress or jealousy, to express anger, and to get their partner's attention (3).

***A half-truth is a whole lie. –  
Yiddish proverb***

- (1) Sandra Stith, *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 2004.
- (2) Jennifer Lanhinrichsen-Rohling, *Partner Abuse* 3(2), 2012.
- (3) Jennifer Lanhinrichsen-Rohling, *Partner Abuse* 3(4), 2012.

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