



National Coalition For Men (NCFM)

Since 1977

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Violence Against Women Act ignores reality

<http://thehill.com/opinion/letters/283895-small-businesses-do-support-closing-corporate-loopholes>

Beyond fraud, waste, duplication, non-accountability, false accusations and the denial of civil rights, the blatantly obvious problem with the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is that women constitute only about half of the true victims of domestic violence. The other half is made up of men, and they receive absolutely zero protections and services from Sen. Patrick Leahy's (D-Vt.) VAWA reauthorization ("Senate passes VAWA reauthorization," Feb. 12).

Never mind that "progressives" proclaim to all who will listen that they are covering all victims — they are not. What is needed is new domestic violence legislation that is science-based and victim-centered, rather than based on false gender ideology.

Decades of consistently replicated social science research shows that domestic violence is initiated about equally by men and women; that slightly more women than men are physically harmed, but that men nonetheless represent more than 40 percent of the physically harmed victims; that the domestic violence initiation rates for women, and especially young women, have been rising; and that the domestic violence rates for bisexuals, gays and lesbians all are higher than for heterosexual couples.

Boys, men and fathers only can hope that Republicans in the House have both more common sense and more respect for science than do their Senate colleagues. Otherwise, why would any man in his right mind vote Republican? Since the Democrats are the "mommy party," perhaps 2014 will be the year of the first successful party to become known as the "daddy party" — Republican or otherwise.

Speaking for myself, this male has been taken for granted and had his needs ignored by the Republican Party for far too long. After a half century, perhaps it is time to move on.

From Gordon E. Finley, professor of Psychology Emeritus, Florida International University, Miami

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