

**RESOLUTION**

**Supporting efforts to introduce and pass the International Violence Against Women Act in the U.S. Congress and urging Senator George Voinovich to co-sponsor the bill.**

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**WHEREAS, every year, violence in the home and community devastates the lives of millions women and girls globally, a human rights violation that includes rape, domestic violence, acid burning, dowry deaths, so-called honor killings, human trafficking, female genital cutting and other harmful practices. The United Nations Development Fund for Women estimates that at least one out of every three women globally will be beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime, with rates reaching 70 percent in some countries, according to the World Health Organization.**

**WHEREAS, existing United State foreign assistance programs focused on health currently have guidelines to address violence against women and girls, there is little information about what current U.S. international programs exist, nor systematic integration of best practices, and scant measurements of the programs' impact.**

**WHEREAS, more than 150 groups including U.S.-based non-governmental organizations, United Nations agencies and 40 women's groups across the globe have consulted on drafting of the International Violence Against Women Act (I-VAWA) to significantly increase U.S. commitment to help eliminate violence against women and girls globally by integrating anti-violence work across U.S. foreign assistance programs.**

**WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Department of Justice Affairs, through its Witness/Victim Service Center, serves thousands of local victims of violence against women each year and, with the Cleveland Municipal Court, facilitating planning of a Family Justice Center to bring similar integration of best practices to our community.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, joins with other sponsoring organizations and hereby proclaims its support of efforts to introduce and pass the International Violence Against Women Act (I-VAWA) in the United States Congress.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, indicate its support by signing a letter of support to the Honorable George Voinovich, Senator, State of Ohio, urging his co-sponsorship of the bill, and permitting the logo of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, to join the logos of other signing entities on that letter.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board be, and she is, hereby instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution to Janet Kronenberg, Manager, Department of Justice Affairs/Witness/Victim Service Center.**

**On Motion of Commissioner Hagan, seconded by Commissioner Dimora, the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.**

**Ayes: Hagan, Dimora, Jones.**

**Nays: None.**

**Resolution Adopted.**

**Jeanne M. Schmotzer,  
Clerk of the Board**

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