



Bill Summary and Position Paper

Senate Bill: TBD

117th Congress (2021-22)

Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization

*An attack on women and
an attack on the Second Amendment.*

NAGR Position: Strongly Oppose

Last Updated: 12/14/2021

Background:

- VAWA type legislation was first introduced by then Senator Joe Biden in 1994 and since then, has been reintroduced many times. This VAWA legislation seeks to expand prohibited persons to include non-felon current or former dating partners.

What the Bill Does:

- It expands on the **Lautenberg misdemeanor gun ban** from the 1990's to include crimes of domestic violence, restraining orders AND non-criminal offenses like causing "*emotional distress*".
- It also redefines the term "intimate partner" to include people someone dated.

Why it's Bad for Gun Owners:

- VAWA incentivizes abuse by relatives, stalkers, or total strangers by allowing them to initiate complaints against a victim in order to have them disarmed without any crime being committed.
- Almost anyone could lose their Second Amendment rights for causing "emotional distress" without due process because virtually everyone who has ever been in a relationship has experienced some moment of emotional stress. Likewise millions of Americans have experienced an unpleasant date in their lives.
- Courts may erroneously interpret this bill to apply to accusations of "emotional distress" that occurred years or decades ago, resulting in large state-based data dumps into NICS and *ex-post facto* prosecutions and unconstitutional **retroactive gun bans**.
- We believe the best way to protect women or any vulnerable population is to eliminate government-imposed barriers to self-defense and allow law-abiding citizens greater access to the tools to defend themselves, including firearms.

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