

# False Claims Hurt True Victims: *Fix VAWA Now!*

Under VAWA -- the Violence Against Women Act -- false allegations of domestic violence have reached epidemic levels in our country:

- According to the RADAR Report, "The Use and Abuse of Restraining Orders," at least one million restraining orders are issued each year in which no violence is even alleged.
- A recent analysis found 81% of temporary restraining orders in West Virginia are false or unnecessary.
- In San Diego, prosecuting attorney Casey Gwinn admits, "I would say it's in the *thousands of people* who take the witness stand and somewhat modify the truth."

## **Innocent Americans Presumed Guilty**

Consider this case involving a well-known TV personality:

*Talk-show host David Letterman was charged with domestic violence. He had allegedly harassed a New Mexico woman he had never met by sending her mental telepathic messages.*

If you were David Letterman, how would you prove you hadn't sent the unwanted mental messages?

Each year over one million Americans are accused of vague offenses such as "harassment," "possessiveness," or causing a person to suffer "emotional distress."

As a result, persons are removed from their homes and forbidden to speak with their children. If they accidentally violate the restraining order, they may be arrested. Sometimes they lose their jobs, their security clearances, and their good reputation.

All because of a false allegation.

## **True Victims Can't Get the Help They Need**

The domestic violence system has become so clogged with minor and trivial cases that true victims can't get the help they want or need:

- Desiree Carpenter, legally blind, went to the Womencare shelter in Bellingham, Wash. for protection. But the shelter refused to accommodate her disability. When she requested a disability aide, she was exited from the shelter.
- A man came to the Another Way shelter in Lake City, Fla. "He was crying, and his arms were bruised, seeking assistance," revealed the intake worker. The shelter manager sent the man home.
- Sarah McPherson struck her husband and he hit back. It was a one-time incident and the couple needed marriage counseling. But instead what they got was heavy-handed intrusion by the criminal justice system.

## **The Time for Reform is Now**

The domestic violence industry is seemingly unconcerned that innocent Americans are being harmed by false allegations of abuse, and victims can't get the help they need.

***Tell your elected officials, "Fix VAWA Now!"***

The logo for RADAR, consisting of three red vertical bars of varying heights followed by the word "RADAR" in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

### **Respecting Accuracy in Domestic Abuse Reporting**

A coalition of over 75 organizations has come together to make VAWA effective for victims and stop false allegations of abuse: [www.mediadarar.org/docs/VAWA-Resolution.pdf](http://www.mediadarar.org/docs/VAWA-Resolution.pdf)

For more information, contact:

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