

## Rothman Works For Stronger Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Laws

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Assault & Domestic Violence Laws

Helps Pass Measure Recognizing Efforts To Prevent Sexual Assault, Calls On  
Congress To Pass His 'Domestic Violence Victim Protection Act'

Washington, DC - In an effort to raise awareness and encourage prevention of sexual assault, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) recently helped push through the House a resolution recognizing the victims of sexual violence, and commending victims, volunteers, law enforcement officials, forensic workers, and prosecutors for their efforts in preventing sexual assault. Rothman used the passage of the sexual assault measure to call on Congress to pass the Domestic Violence Victim Protection Act, which he authored.

"Government's first responsibility is to protect the people, and that includes helping to prevent acts of violence against women and ensuring that those who commit such crimes are faced with swift and certain justice so that they never break the law and destroy another woman's life again," Rothman said. "I am committed to pursuing any legislative means that will help prevent sexual assault and domestic violence, track down rapists and other criminals at large, and offer counseling to those who unfortunately have already suffered through a crime."

Rothman's Domestic Violence Victim Protection Act makes it easier for police officers responding to domestic violence calls to confiscate weapons on the premises, lowers the burden of proof standard for convicting stalkers, streamlines the court process for domestic violence cases, and helps expedite the entering of protective order information into computer databases.

In addition to the sexual assault measure that Rothman helped pass this week, he is the cosponsor of other pieces of legislation that addresses rape and other acts of violence. Rothman is a cosponsor of the Debbie Smith Act, which would help relieve the backlog of DNA testing needed for rape cases and improve investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases with DNA evidence. Additionally, Rothman is the cosponsor of the Victims of Crime Fairness Act of 2003 that would increase the amount of federal funds available to states for victims of all kinds of crimes. The funds help victims pay for mental health counseling, medical treatment, and other post-attack needs.

"We must break down the bureaucratic walls that have prevented too many innocent women from being able to break free from a reign of terror in a domestic violence relationship, we must change the conditions to prevent assaults overall, and we must end the backlog of DNA testing that will get criminals off the street."

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