Washington, DC - *Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) released the following statement today after House Democrats reintroduced the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA.) Congressman Farr is a co-sponsor of this legislation to protect women from domestic abuse:*

"No woman should be forced to live in fear of domestic violence simply because Congress is unwilling to act. Nineteen years ago, we came together to pass the original Violence Against Women Act to empower federal, state and local law enforcement with the tools necessary to prevent and stop domestic abuse. I was proud to vote for that landmark legislation then and continue to support it today.

"Last year, the Senate passed a bipartisan reauthorization of VAWA, with new provisions to strengthen the law. However, the Republican leadership in the House refused to bring this bipartisan bill to the floor for a vote, leaving millions of women without vital protections when the act expired.

"House Democrats have reintroduced this bipartisan legislation and I am proud to be a cosponsor. In addition to restoring the previous provisions of the act, the new VAWA will strengthen the original law by extending protections to LGBT Americans, immigrants and Native Americans.

"Congress must stop wasting time and pass a new VAWA that protects all women." # # #