

# MAKING CHANGE ON CAPITOL HILL

THE ACLU PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE IN ENSURING THE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION THAT ADVANCES OUR RIGHTS. HERE IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE OF THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES WORK OF OUR WASHINGTON LEGISLATIVE OFFICE.



**In 2011, Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) introduced an amendment** to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that would provide insurance coverage for abortion to servicewomen and dependents who were victims of rape or incest. Though initially blocked, the amendment passed thanks to the ACLU's tireless lobbying efforts.

2011

**MAY 2011**  
House blocks consideration of amendment



**NOVEMBER 2011**  
Senate introduces and subsequently blocks amendment

2012

**MARCH 2012**  
ACLU recruits senior retired military leaders for lobby day on Capitol Hill

**MAY 2012**  
**MAY 18, 2012**  
House passes NDAA with amendment  
**MAY 24, 2012**  
Senate Armed Services Committee adopts amendment

**SEPTEMBER 2012**  
Campaign arranges lobby day for senior retired military leaders to urge House Republicans to accept the amendment

**DECEMBER 2012**  
**DECEMBER 5, 2012**  
Senate adopts NDAA with amendment  
**DECEMBER 10, 2012**  
ACLU sends Congress a letter signed by dozens of retired military leaders, including 4-star General Colin Powell

**DECEMBER 18, 2012**  
House and Senate agree to include amendment in final version of NDAA

**DECEMBER 20-21, 2012**  
House and Senate pass final version of NDAA



2013

**JANUARY 3, 2013**  
PRESIDENT OBAMA SIGNS NDAA AND THE AMENDMENT INTO LAW!

## STAND WITH SERVICEWOMEN CAMPAIGN

LAUNCHED: SUMMER 2012

- Though the ACLU was a leading partner, the organization chose to highlight the issue, not its name
- New website featured military supporters
- TV commercials ran in Washington, D.C., and during GOP and Democratic conventions



More than **32,770** website subscribers

**49,608** letters to Congress in just **TWO** months

Over **300,000** letters generated by coalition efforts **sent to Congress**

**528** senators and representatives **contacted**

More than **58,598,000** unique views of **online ads**

**4,755** PHONE CALLS

made by ACLU members to key legislators over TWO DAYS

**24** generals and admirals + **30** colonels and Navy captains + **6** senior NCOs + more =

**60+** retired military leaders in support of the amendment

**COUNTLESS** HOURS SPENT

"We lived and breathed it."

—Elayne Weiss, ACLU Legislative Office

★ ★ ★ **590 DAYS** FROM HOUSE'S "NO" TO PRESIDENT'S "GO!"