

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 6, 2019

The Honorable Jose Serrano
Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and
Human Services and Education
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and
Human Services and Education
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Serrano, Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Aderholt and Ranking Member Cole:

As final negotiations on FY 2020 appropriations are underway, we thank you and encourage you to maintain the House-passed funding levels for vital programs that address domestic and sexual violence, in particular the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), and the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). These key federal funding streams are the cornerstones to ending gender-based violence.

Violence against women is contrary to our values and we have a responsibility to prevent and address it. However, there is also an economic case for funding these key programs. Each year, intimate partner violence generates more than \$9.05 billion in costs for victims, private companies, and states, including \$1.34 billion (8 million days) lost from work. Sexual violence is also very costly. Recent estimates put the cost of rape at \$122,461 per victim, including medical costs, lost productivity, criminal justice activities, and other costs.

Providing early response, support services, and prevention programs to reduce domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking helps to reduce these costs and save large amounts of public dollars. Otherwise, funding will be spent responding to these crimes through law enforcement, health care, and homeless services, among other services.

All three of these programs are essential and need to be funded at the House-passed funding levels. They all serve related but different purposes and fund different activities:

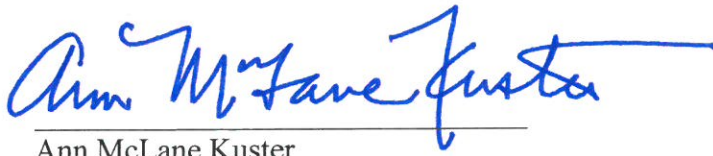
1. Administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), **Family Violence Prevention and Services Act** is the first and only dedicated funding source for domestic violence services, and funds emergency shelters, crisis lines, counseling, victim

assistance, and other vital services including specialized services for children exposed to domestic violence. We are grateful that the House voted to fully fund FVPSA at \$175 million for an increase of \$10.5 million over FY 2019. The Senate Appropriations Committee has not yet reported its Labor-HHS bill.

2. Each **Violence Against Women Act** program helps ensure that victims are safe, offenders are held accountable, and communities are secure. The House funded VAWA at \$590.50 million and the Senate funded VAWA at \$500 million. We urge you to push for the higher numbers.
 - For example, the **Rural Services program** helps women living in rural and isolated areas receive services, with over 25% of these victims living more than 40 miles from the closest service provider. In order to address this disparity, the House approved \$50 million for the Rural program, while the Senate has approved \$43.5 million.
 - Another program that received higher funding in the House was the **Consolidated Youth and Prevention Program** which helps children exposed to violence and abuse, prevents teen dating violence, and engages men and boys in an effort to combat violence against women and girls. To support these efforts, the House approved \$20 million for the Consolidated Youth program, while the Senate has approved \$11 million.
 - The need can be made for every VAWA program from the largest programs such as **STOP Grants** that go out to states, the **Sexual Assault Services Program**, or the **Transitional Housing Program**. There is also a great need for more resources to the smallest programs such as services for **disabled, elderly**, and specific populations such as **American Indian and Alaska Native victims**. VAWA also funds resource centers such as the **Workplace Resource Center** to help employers address and prevent violence and abuse, including harassment in the workplace, and critically important public health programs at HHS such as the **Rape Prevention and Education Program** and **Violence Against Women Health State Partnership Initiative**.
3. Finally, **VOCA** uses non-taxpayer money from the Crime Victims Fund for programs that directly serve victims of all types of crimes, including by providing domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, and child abuse treatment programs for victims of domestic violence. We urge you to set the VOCA cap at an average of the past three years' deposits into the VOCA account, maintain a tribal funding stream in VOCA not to transfer funds from VOCA to fund other programs.

Again, we are grateful the leadership you have exhibited in securing such strong funding to address and prevent this type of violence and abuse, and we ask that you do all in your power to maintain the House funding levels in the final appropriations legislation for FY 2020. Please let us know how we can be of assistance.

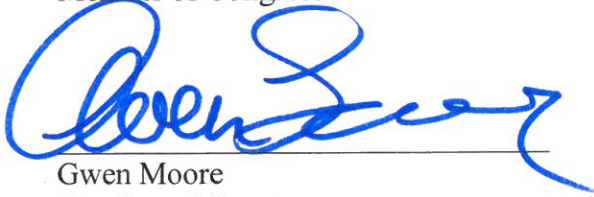
Sincerely,



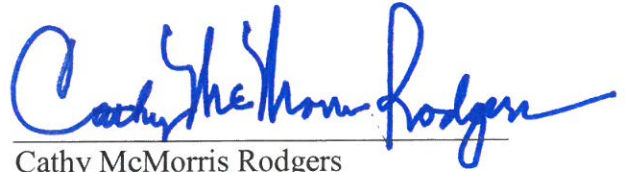
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



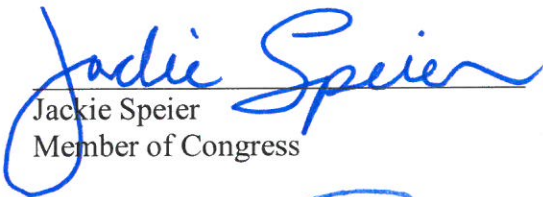
Pete Olson
Member of Congress



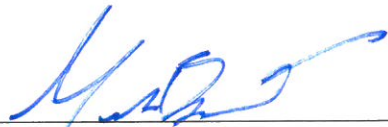
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



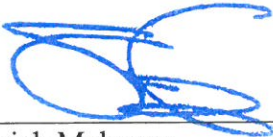
Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



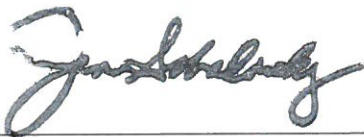
Mike Bost
Member of Congress



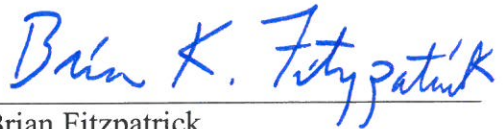
Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



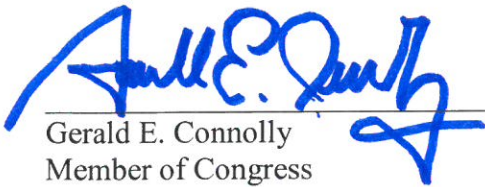
Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



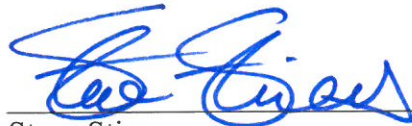
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



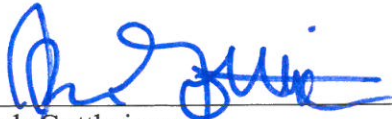
Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



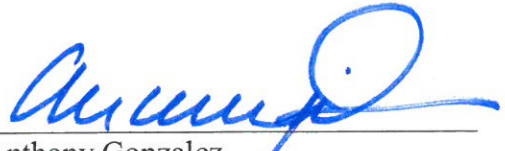
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



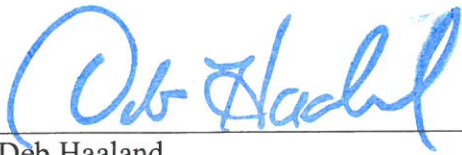
Anthony Gonzalez
Member of Congress



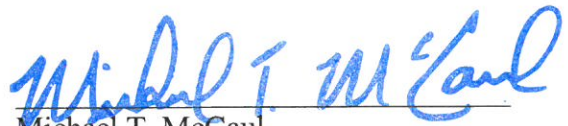
Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



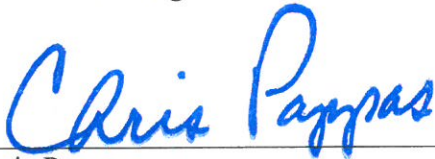
Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



Deb Haaland
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



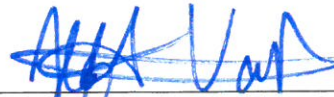
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress



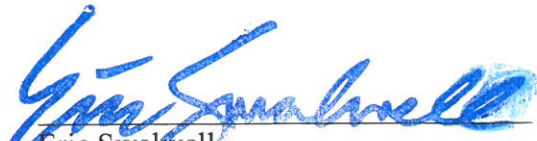
Ted W. Lieu
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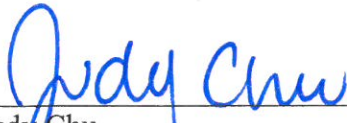
Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



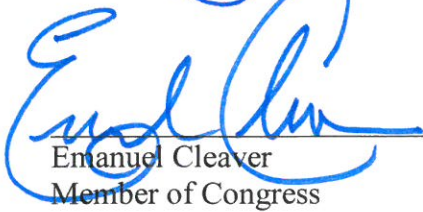
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



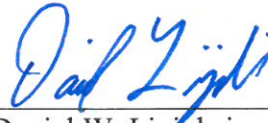
Judy Chu
Member of Congress




André Carson
Member of Congress



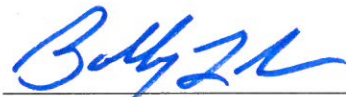
Emanuel Cleaver
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Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



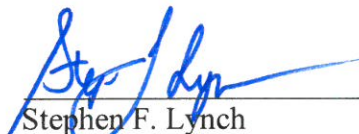
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



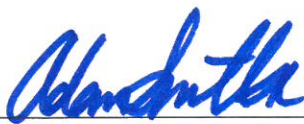
Danny K. Davis
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Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



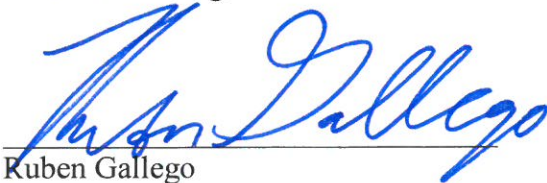
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



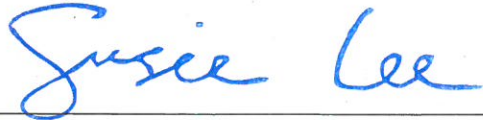
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



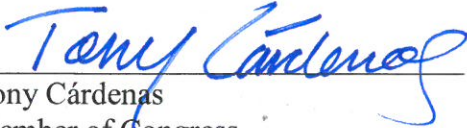
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress



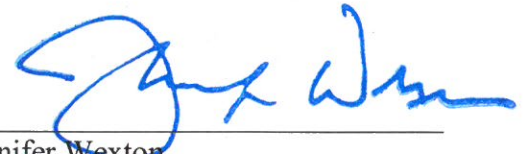
Susie Lee
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



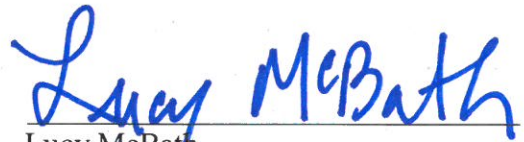
Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress



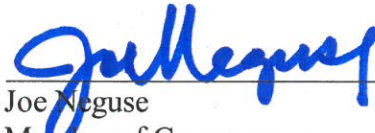
Al Lawson, Jr.
Member of Congress



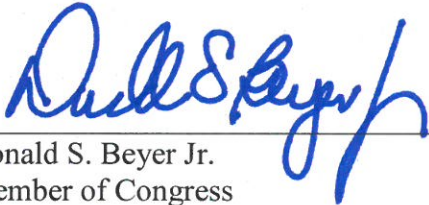
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



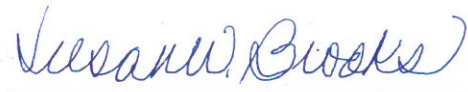
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



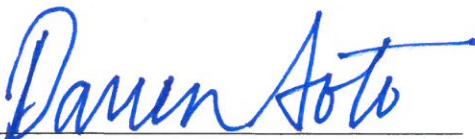
Susan W. Brooks
Member of Congress



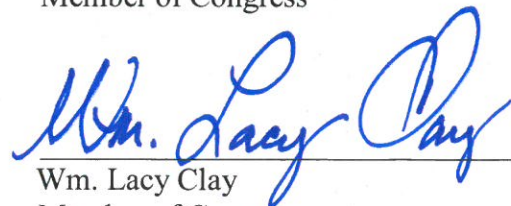
Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



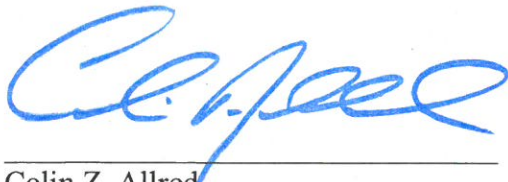
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



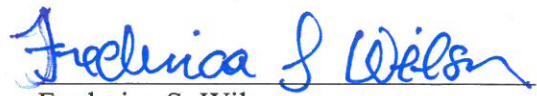
Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress