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The Honorable Mitch McConnell
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Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Majority Leader
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The Honorable Chuck Grassley
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The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
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The Honorable Charles Schumer
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The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
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The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
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Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Ranking Member
Judiciary Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2109 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 17, 2018

Dear Honorable Leaders:

We write to strongly urge you to act swiftly to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), funding for which is set to expire this year. As the chief legal officers of our respective states, reducing the rate and devastating effects of sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and stalking and supporting survivors as they rebuild their lives has been a constant and consistent priority. If Congress allows VAWA to lapse, it will mean that millions of survivors will have nowhere to turn, violent crimes against women will increase, and perpetrators of these crimes will go unpunished.

Since VAWA was originally passed in 1994, legislation reauthorizing and further strengthening the law has passed with bipartisan support in 2000, 2005, and 2013. These improvements to VAWA have recognized and addressed the severity of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. With every iteration of the law, services, resources, protections, and remedies for survivors of these crimes have been enhanced.

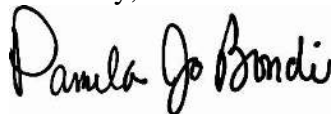
1850 M Street, NW
Twelfth Floor
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 326-6000
<http://www.naag.org/>

Under the law, between 1995 and 2016, over \$6 billion in grants have been awarded to a wide array of government and non-profit organizations across the nation. These programs provide training and assistance to address and reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, offer resources and services to survivors, and hold offenders accountable. These programs have also facilitated partnerships between prosecutors, judges, advocates, community organizations, and health care providers. Through our extensive effort to fight violence against women and support survivors, we have seen that coordinated responses are essential to help survivors through crisis and empower them to live safe and healthy lives.

VAWA has substantially improved access to advocacy, health care, and legal services, but unfortunately, violence against women remains prevalent in all communities. Every aspect of our society--rural, suburban, urban, and our tribal communities-- has all been impacted by the painful effects of violence against women. Yet, the work to eradicate sexual and intimate partner violence is far from complete. Congress must act swiftly to re-authorize VAWA to maintain the essential tools so necessary to support survivors and reduce the frequency of these senseless acts of violence.

As the legislative history of VAWA has shown, members from both sides of the aisle have come together to strengthen existing protections and fill gaps in the law. We therefore urge you to work together as leaders of your respective caucuses and committees to act before VAWA expires and pass a VAWA reauthorization bill that continues to ensure our nation's most vulnerable victims are not left behind.

Sincerely,



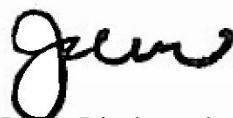
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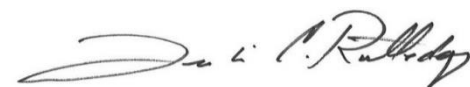
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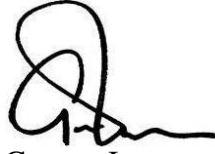
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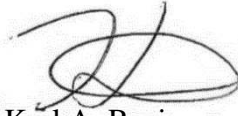
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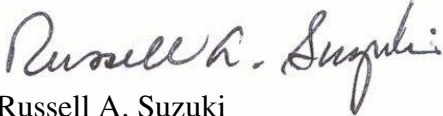
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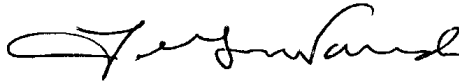
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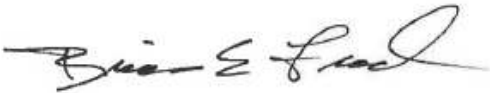
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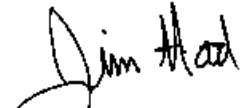
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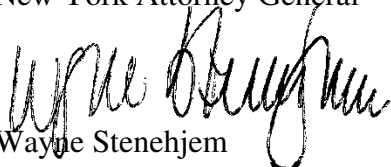
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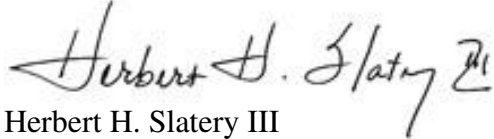
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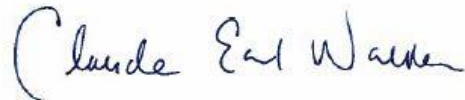
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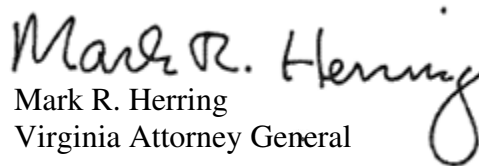
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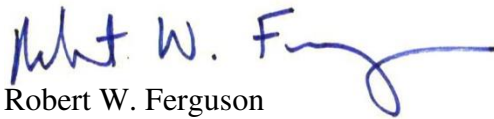
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