

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2008

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James Walsh
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Alan Mollohan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Obey and Mollohan and Ranking Members Walsh and Frelinghuysen:

Domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking affect at least 1 in 4 American women and touch the lives of many families and individuals. For over 13 years, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) has helped victims and families in our communities and made substantial progress toward ending domestic and sexual violence. **We urge you to fully fund the VAWA programs in the Department of Health and Human Services at \$320 million and the Department of Justice at \$683 million in the FY '09 Congressional Budget.**

According to the National Census of Domestic Violence Services, on one day in 2007 over 53,000 women, men and children sought support from local domestic violence programs. Yet every day shelters and service providers must turn away families in danger due to lack of resources; on one day, over 7,700 requests for services went unmet. Services for victims of sexual assault are even more limited. In fact, rape crisis centers around the country are reporting waiting lists for victims as young as 18-months to access counseling services. In a single year, more than 300,000 women and almost 93,000 men will have been raped.

VAWA programs in the Labor-HHS and Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations bills support law enforcement, courts, rape crisis centers, shelters, children's services, prevention programs, community outreach, and other state and local programs that provide services for victims and families. Remarkably, VAWA has saved money while saving lives; the original VAWA, authorized in 1994, saved tax payers at least \$14.8 billion in net averted social costs in its first 6 years.

Despite the rising demand for services and the demonstrated success of these programs, the President's Budget Request for FY '09 proposes measures that would endanger victim's services nationwide. Once again, the President's FY '09 request proposes to block grant VAWA programs in CJS, a move that Congress resoundingly rejected last year. Furthermore, the President's request would cut 30% of funding from these VAWA programs in CJS and fails to provide funding to meet the growing need for VAWA-funded services in LHHS. If enacted, these cuts would compound the harsh effects of state budget cuts, leaving victims and their families with nowhere to turn.

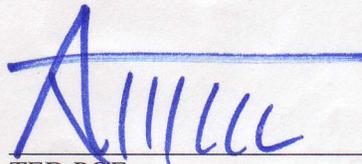
We urge you to fully fund VAWA programs in both the LHHS and CJS budgets. **For your convenience, we have attached a list of the VAWA programs in the Commerce, Justice, Science and the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bills.** Full funding of VAWA is a critical investment in our communities that will save lives, rebuild families, and prevent future crimes. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



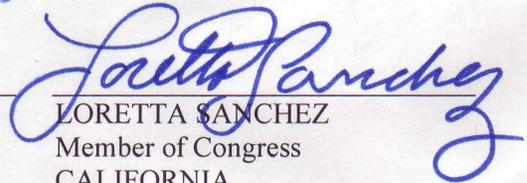
JIM COSTA
Member of Congress
CALIFORNIA

Co-Chair
Congressional Victim's
Rights Caucus



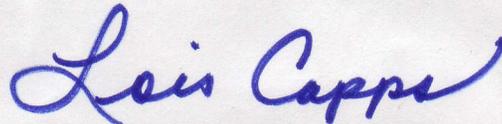
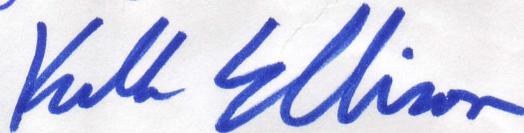
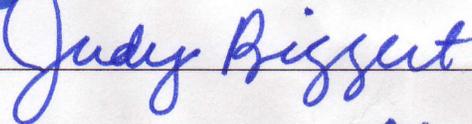
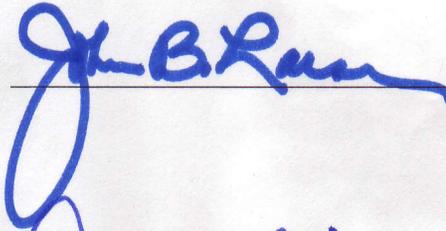
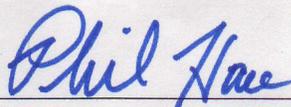
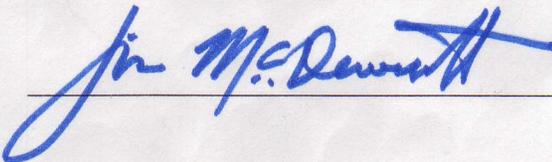
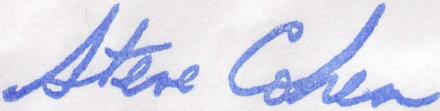
TED POE
Member of Congress
TEXAS

Co-Chair
Congressional Victim's
Rights Caucus



LORETTA SANCHEZ
Member of Congress
CALIFORNIA

Co-Chair
Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues
Violence Against Women Taskforce



Neil Rakhall

John F. Terney

Bart Gordon

Jim Moran

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San Mangullo

Niki Longo

Bill Bell

The Bell

Gene

Mike Ferguson

Kathy Castor

John A

Michael A. Arini

John Lewis

Wm. Lacy Clay

Christie P. Ray

Jimmy Daley

Amey H

Linda J. Sinden

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Pete W

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Hilda L. Blis

Jean Altwire

Mary

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Dan Burton

Alan Smith

Louise M. Staughton

Allan R. Wynn

Eileen Staughton

Bill Delahunt

Dennis J. Kucinich

Jimmy Baldwin

Sheila Jackson Lee

Bob Fulmer

Diana Alton

Tim Holden

E. Whitfield

Ralph M. Hall

Arthur R.

Maureen Dowd

Bill Pascell Jr.

E. C. Hornum

Hot Sub

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Jan S. G. G.
Jan S. G. G.

Stephanie P. G.

D. Reichert

Rail M. Arjalon

Jim Marshall

Nancy Boyda

Russ Carver

Bingteh

James Oberstar

Connie Brown Johnson

Phyllis

Jerold Radtke

Mydia H. Kellogg

Tom Hume

An Yang

Doris O. Watson

Joe Lester