

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 7, 2018

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Majority Leader McCarthy:

As you know, on September 30th the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is set to expire, leaving us only 7 legislative days to prevent a lapse in authorization. We therefore write to urge you to advance a bipartisan reauthorization of VAWA without delay.

Since being signed into law in 1994, VAWA has helped to protect and support millions of Americans who have faced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This landmark legislation has drastically improved our nation's response to these crimes and has contributed to the overall declining rates of domestic abuse since its enactment. However, instances of violence are still very common. According to the Centers for Disease Control, in our country, about 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men experience some form of contact sexual violence during their lifetime.

Programs authorized and funded under VAWA work to protect girls, boys, men, and women from these terrible crimes. The programs provide funding to ensure safety and support for survivors, increase prevention efforts, expand educational awareness surrounding domestic violence and sexual assault, implement training for health professionals and law enforcement, and to coordinate responses across agencies. We have all seen the positive impact of these programs in our districts and have met individuals in our communities who have benefited from the protections this law provides.

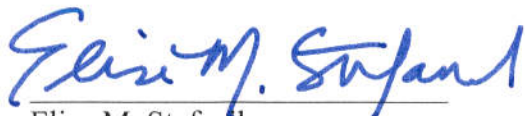
This is not a partisan issue. VAWA has been continually reauthorized on a bipartisan basis in Congress. We must act now to maintain and strengthen this critical law.

We urge expeditious reauthorization of VAWA and thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



John Katko
Member of Congress




Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Jeff Denham
Member of Congress



John J. Faso
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress




Jim Renacci
Member of Congress



Steve Knight
Member of Congress



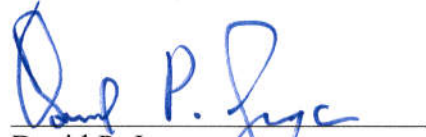
Tom Reed
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress



Peter T. King
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress




Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress




David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
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Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress




Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
Member of Congress

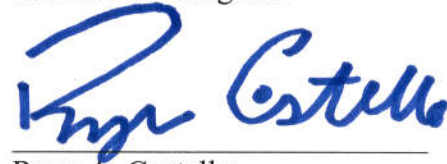

Dave Reichert
Member of Congress


Leonard Lance
Member of Congress

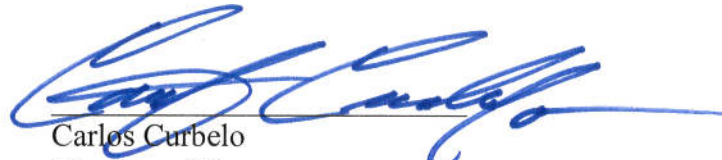

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress


Mimi Walters
Member of Congress


Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress


Ryan A. Costello
Member of Congress



John Curtis
Member of Congress


Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress


Mike Bost
Member of Congress


Mike Coffman
Member of Congress


David Young
Member of Congress


Kevin Yoder
Member of Congress


Jennifer González-Colón
Member of Congress


David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress



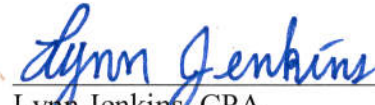
Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



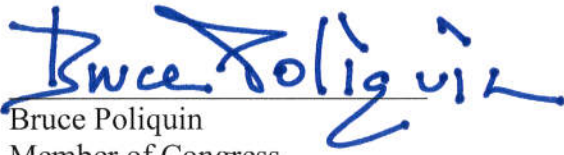
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



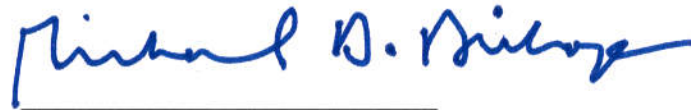
Susan W. Brooks
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins, CPA
Member of Congress



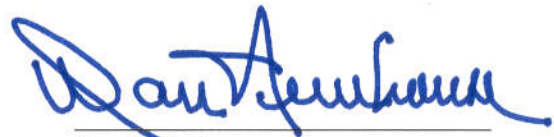
Bruce Poliquin
Member of Congress



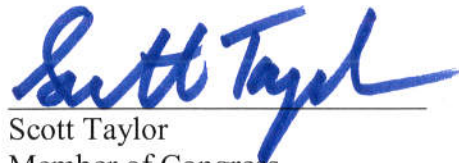
Mike Bishop
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



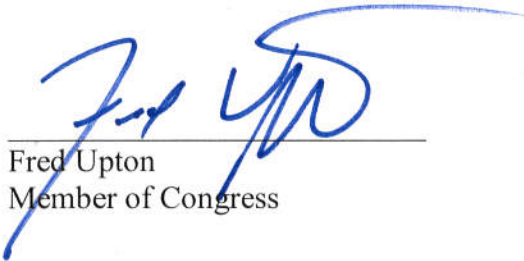
Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Scott Taylor
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress



Greg Walden
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