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Karl A. Racine
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The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
Judiciary Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2309 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
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.

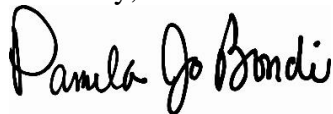
1850 M Street, NW
Twelfth Floor
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 326-6000
<http://www.naag.org/>

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,




Pamela Jo Bondi
Florida Attorney General



Lisa Madigan
Illinois Attorney General



Steve Marshall
Alabama Attorney General



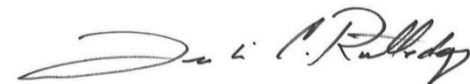
Janna Lindemuth
Alaska Attorney General



Talauega Eleasalo V. Ale
American Samoa Attorney General



Mark Brnovich
Arizona Attorney General



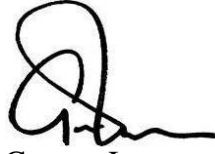
Leslie Rutledge
Arkansas Attorney General



Xavier Becerra
California Attorney General



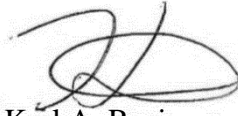
Cynthia H. Coffman
Colorado Attorney General



George Jepsen
Connecticut Attorney General



Matthew P. Denn
Delaware Attorney General



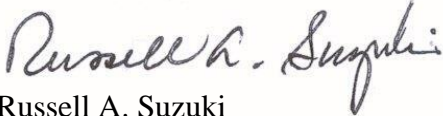
Karl A. Racine
District of Columbia Attorney General



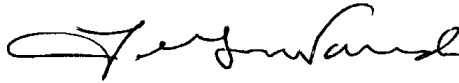
Christopher M. Carr
Georgia Attorney General



Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson
Guam Attorney General



Russell A. Suzuki
Hawaii Attorney General



Lawrence Wasden
Idaho Attorney General



Curtis T. Hill, Jr.
Indiana Attorney General



Tom Miller
Iowa Attorney General




Derek Schmidt
Kansas Attorney General



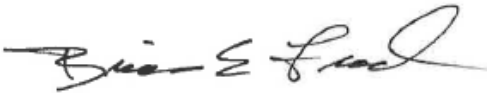
Andy Beshear
Kentucky Attorney General



Jeff Landry
Louisiana Attorney General



Janet Mills
Maine Attorney General



Brian Frosh
Maryland Attorney General



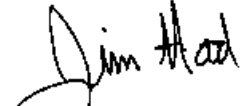
Maura Healey
Massachusetts Attorney General



Bill Schuette
Michigan Attorney General



Lori Swanson
Minnesota Attorney General



Jim Hood
Mississippi Attorney General



Tim Fox
Montana Attorney General



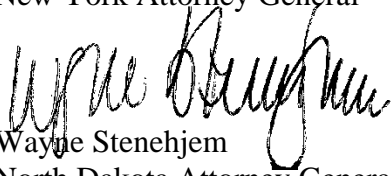
Adam Paul Laxalt
Nevada Attorney General



Gurbir S. Grewal
New Jersey Attorney General



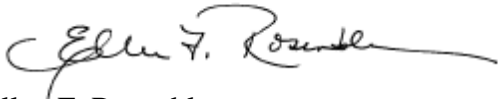
Barbara D. Underwood
New York Attorney General



Wayne Stenehjem
North Dakota Attorney General



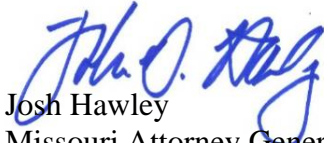
Mike DeWine
Ohio Attorney General



Ellen F. Rosenblum
Oregon Attorney General



Wanda Vázquez Garced
Puerto Rico Attorney General



Josh Hawley
Missouri Attorney General



Douglas Peterson
Nebraska Attorney General



Gordon MacDonald
New Hampshire Attorney General



Hector Balderas
New Mexico Attorney General



Josh Stein
North Carolina Attorney General



Edward Manibusan
N. Mariana Islands Attorney General



Mike Hunter
Oklahoma Attorney General



Josh Shapiro
Pennsylvania Attorney General



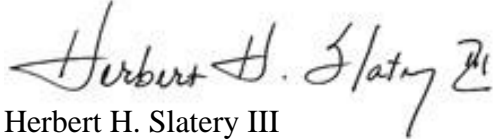
Peter F. Kilmartin
Rhode Island Attorney General



Alan Wilson
South Carolina Attorney General



Marty J. Jackley
South Dakota Attorney General



Herbert H. Slatery III
Tennessee Attorney General



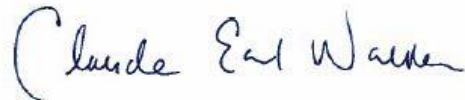
Ken Paxton
Texas Attorney General



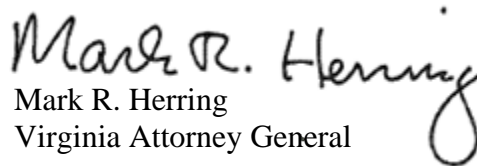
Sean Reyes
Utah Attorney General



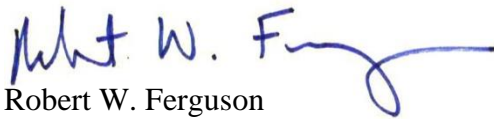
T.J. Donovan
Vermont Attorney General



Claude E. Walker
Virgin Islands Attorney General



Mark R. Herring
Virginia Attorney General



Robert W. Ferguson
Washington Attorney General



Patrick Morrissey
West Virginia Attorney General



Brad Schimel
Wisconsin Attorney General



Peter K. Michael
Wyoming Attorney General