

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 18, 2017

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby  
The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
The Honorable Patty Murray  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education and  
Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby, Chairman Blunt, Ranking Member Shaheen and Ranking Member Murray:

Thank you for your continued commitment to funding critical and life-saving programs for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. As the Commerce, Justice, Science and the Labor, Health and Human Services Subcommittees consider their Fiscal Year 2018 priorities, we urge you to fund the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) at the highest possible levels.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that domestic violence affects more than 12 million people in our nation each year. Congress made clear its commitment to meet the needs of victims of domestic and sexual violence with the passage of the bipartisan Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013. The programs reauthorized under that law have been vital in providing national resources for legal advocacy and counseling for victims in the aftermath of abuse. Its programs have also provided training and educational sessions for parents, teachers, law enforcement, and other professionals to prevent, identify, and respond to domestic and sexual violence.

Despite these successes, there is great unmet need due to a lack of resources. The National Alliance to End Sexual Violence estimates that over half of rape crisis centers have a waiting list for victims seeking counseling services. The organization also found that in just one day last September, while approximately

73,000 victims of domestic violence received services, another 12,000 requests from victims for services went unmet due to a lack of funding.

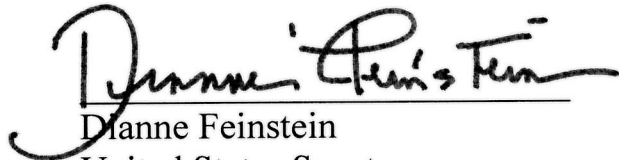
We recognize the budgetary constraints you face, but we urge you to support funding for VAWA programs that are not only life-saving, but also cost-saving. Since its enactment, VAWA has saved taxpayers well over \$12 billion in net averted societal costs.

Thank you again for your past support for victims of domestic and sexual violence with annual appropriations. We urge the Subcommittees to support the highest possible funding levels for these crucial and cost-effective programs administered by the Office on Violence Against Women and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Sincerely,



Michael Crapo  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



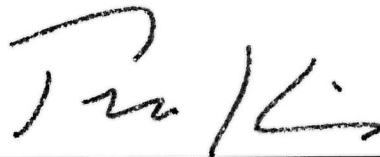
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



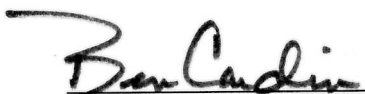
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



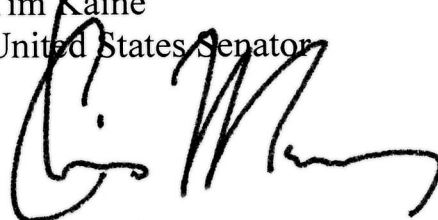
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



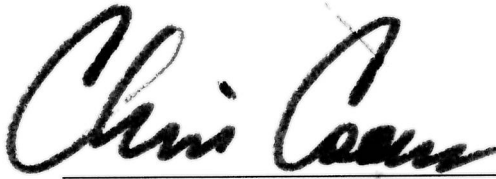
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



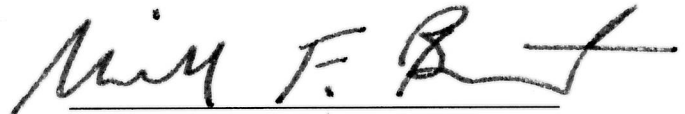
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator




Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



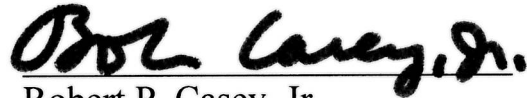
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



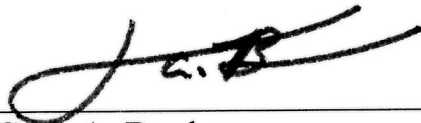
Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



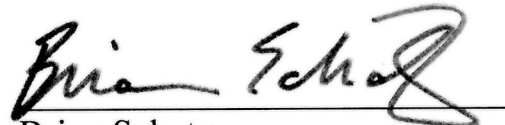
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Al Franken  
United States Senator



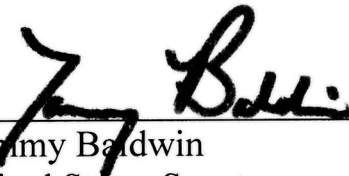
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



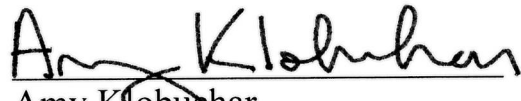
Tom Carper  
United States Senator




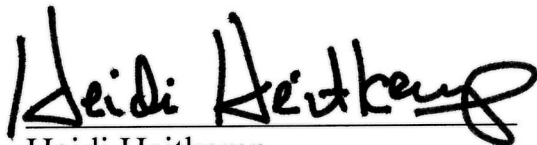
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator


  
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

  
Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator

  
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

  
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator

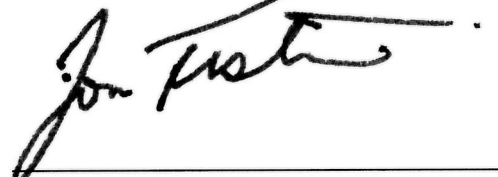
  
Heidi Heitkamp  
United States Senator

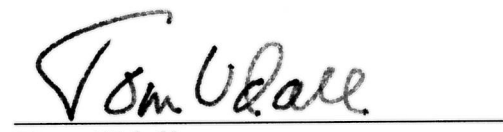
  
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator


  
Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator

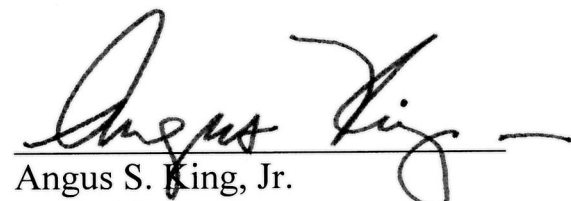
  
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator


  
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

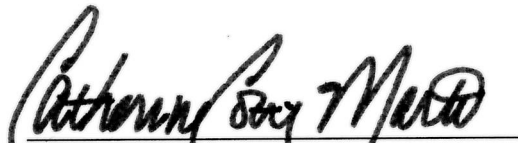
  
Jon Tester  
United States Senator

  
Tom Udall  
United States Senator


  
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator

  
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

  
Bill Nelson  
United States Senator

  
Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator

  
Jack Reed  
United States Senator

  
Christopher Van Hollen  
United States Senator

  
Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations