December 11, 2012

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eric Cantor
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-329, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Democratic Whip
U.S. House of Representatives
H-148, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner, Democratic Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader Cantor and Democratic Whip Hoyer:

We write today asking you to move quickly on the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) by bringing a bill inclusive of protections for all victims of domestic violence, similar to that which has already passed the Senate, to the House floor for a vote during these final weeks of the 112th Congress. The Violence Against Women Act is crucial for the victims of domestic violence and those agencies and organizations who serve them. We must send the President a strong, bipartisan bill that protects all those vulnerable to domestic violence.

At the time that VAWA was first passed into law, a woman was raped every six seconds in the United States and a female was beaten every 15 seconds. Since its enactment, cases of domestic violence have fallen by sixty-seven percent. Over one million women have used the justice system to obtain protective orders against their batterers. VAWA has averted more than $14 billion dollars in societal costs as interventions have lowered domestic violence frequency and sexual assault rates. The law has also succeeded in bringing communities together to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
The Violence Against Women Act has without question been successful. It has saved lives and helped millions of victims find safety, security and self-sufficiency. But even with all of the advancements that have been made, three women a day in this country are still killed by an intimate partner. Obviously there is much more work to be done.

Each time that VAWA has come up for reauthorization, bipartisan cooperation has swiftly moved it forward so that even more protections for victims of domestic violence become available and accessible. This must be the case again. We strongly urge you to move past politics and send a VAWA reauthorization bill to the President that he can sign immediately.

Sincerely,

Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress

Judy Biggert  
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

John Conyers  
Member of Congress

Ted Poe  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Ed Towns  
Member of Congress

Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

Raul Grijalva  
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

Richard Hanna  
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

Mike Michaud  
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress

Bruce Braley  
Member of Congress

Terri Sewell  
Member of Congress

John Olver  
Member of Congress

Al Green  
Member of Congress

Sander Levin  
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

Janice Hahn  
Member of Congress

Rush Holt  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
Member of Congress
Lois Capps  
Member of Congress

Jim Moran  
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

Madeleine Bordallo  
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress

Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

Adam Schiff  
Member of Congress

Linda Sánchez  
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress
Donna Edwards
Member of Congress

Dave Reichert
Member of Congress

Chris Murphy
Member of Congress

Laura Richardson
Member of Congress