

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 26, 2022

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
H-310
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
H-310
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cartwright, and Ranking Member Aderholt:

As the Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee considers their FY23 priorities, we want to thank you for your leadership in funding programs in the last fiscal year that serve victims of domestic violence, sexual violence dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. We respectfully urge you to maintain and increase support for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), more than 12 million people experience domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking each year. Nearly every day in the U.S. an average of three women are killed by a current or former intimate partner, an average of one in five women have been raped in their lifetime, and one in two women have experienced some form of sexual violence.

That is why our nation relies on the critical programs administered by VAWA. With the passage of VAWA in 1994, the infusion of federal funds fostered unprecedented coordination between advocates responding to domestic violence and sexual assault crises – police officers, victim service providers, prosecutors, judges, and the criminal and civil justice systems. VAWA is a cornerstone of our nation's response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. Its effective coordinated community response model helps victims find safety and receive services while holding thousands of perpetrators accountable for their actions. VAWA programs support advocacy and accompaniment through medical and legal systems, hotlines, crisis intervention, and prevention.

We urge the Subcommittees to commit adequate resources toward these effective, life-saving programs and **provide full funding of \$1.135 billion for VAWA programs** administered by the Office on Violence Against Women/Department of Justice.

We ask for the following funds:

- **STOP Formula Grant Program (\$326 million)** one of the most far-reaching VAWA programs, is at the core of effective coordinated community responses to domestic violence and sexual assault which helps hundreds of thousands of victims find safety and receive services every year while holding thousands of perpetrators accountable for their actions.
- **Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) (\$100 million)** is the only federal funding source exclusively funding direct services for survivors of sexual assault
- **Culturally Specific Service Program (\$35 million)**: provides funding to culturally specific organizations to reach survivors in communities of color who face barriers in accessing services

- **Rural Grant (\$100 million)** is a comprehensive grant program that provides support services for victims of domestic and sexual violence living in rural and isolated areas.
- **VAWA Consolidated Youth and Prevention Programs (\$60 million) including the Violence on College Campuses Grants (\$40 million), the SMART and CHOOSE Youth (\$20 million)** programs.
- **Legal Assistance to Victims (\$100 million)** program provides lifesaving legal service for victims of domestic and sexual violence.
- **Other VAWA Programs (\$410.5 million)** All VAWA programs work together to ensure that the systemic responses to domestic violence and sexual assault are improved and that victims can receive lifesaving services. Request that the remaining VAWA programs, including the Improving Criminal Justice Responses (\$80 million), Transitional Housing program (\$100 million), Elder Abuse Grant program (\$10 million), Protections and Services for Disabled Victims (\$17.5 million), and Outreach to Underserved Victims (\$10 million), Grants to Support Families in the Justice System (\$28 million), Engaging Men and Youth in Prevention (\$10 million), National Deaf Services (\$10 million), Restorative Practices (\$25 million), Supporting Transgender Victims (\$7 million), LGBTQ Specific Services Program (\$5 million), Direct Cash Assistance (\$8 million), Community-Based Organizational Capacity Building (\$10 million), Emerging Issues (\$5 million), Rape Survivor Child Custody Act (\$5 million), Closing the Consent Loophole (\$5 million), Improving Conditions for Women in Federal Custody (\$8 million), Grants to Combat Violence Against Women in Public and Assisted Housing (\$8 million). Programs that address the needs of Native American victims include Research on Violence Against Indian Women (\$2 million), the VAWA Tribal Jurisdiction (\$25 million), National Tribal Sex Offender Registry (\$1 million) and the National Clearinghouse on Sexual Assault of American Indian and Alaska Native Women (\$2 million), Tribal Special Assistance US Attorneys (\$4 million), Tribal Order of Protection (\$10 million), and the Tribal Access program (\$6 million). Finally, the Resource Center on Workplace Response (\$2 million) helps companies address domestic violence and sexual assault in the workplace.

Despite the critical need for services, training, and the proven effectiveness of VAWA's programs, funding has remained relatively level. Programs are struggling to meet the increasing demand for services without additional resources. Therefore, we strongly urge you to fund each VAWA program at least at its authorized level for FY23.

Sincerely,



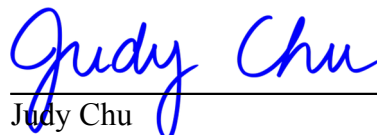
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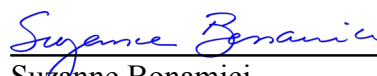
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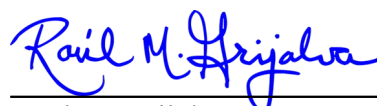
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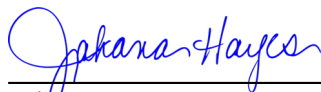
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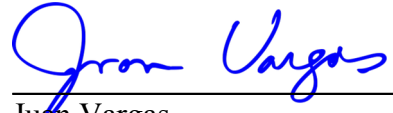
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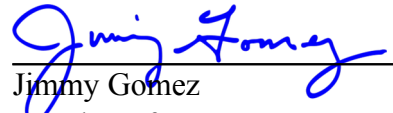
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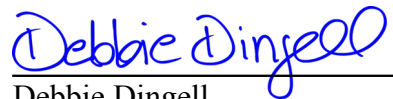
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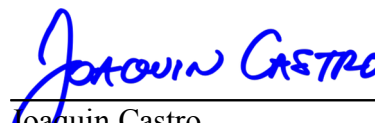
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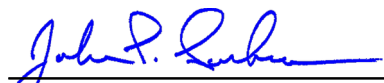
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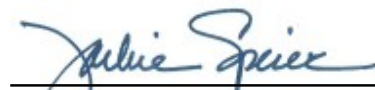
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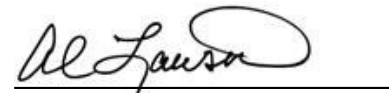
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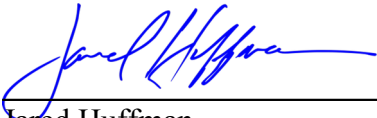
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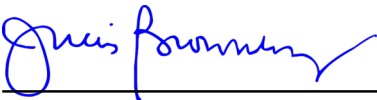
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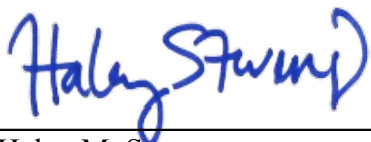
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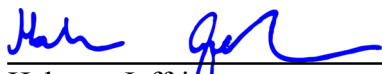
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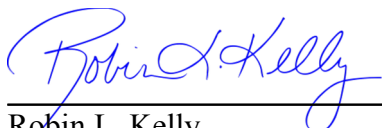
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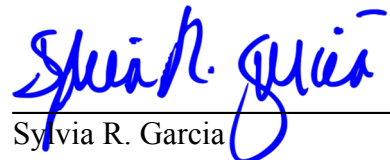
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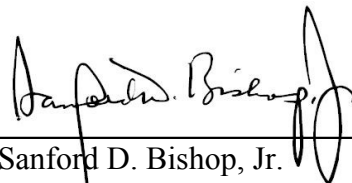
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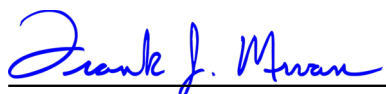
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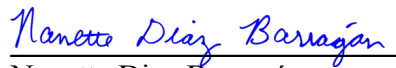
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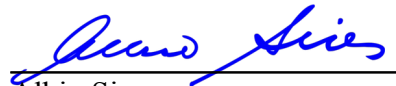
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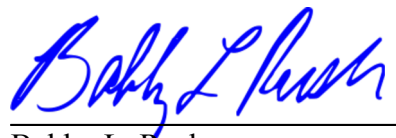

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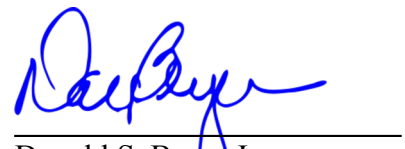

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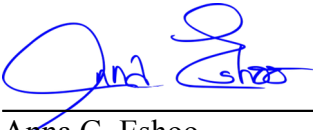

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André Carson
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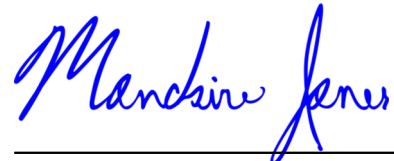
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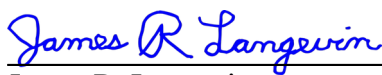
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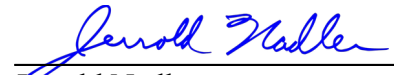
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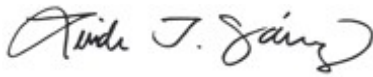
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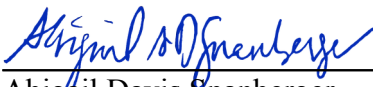
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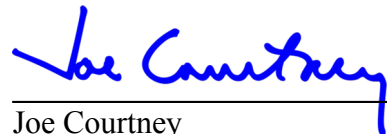
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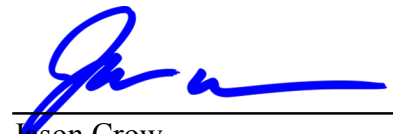
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