Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Republican Leader McCarthy and Minority Leader Schumer,

As you know, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) plays a vital role in supporting programs that help protect individuals throughout the United States from crime and domestic abuse. In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the number of persons forced to shelter in place or quarantine with abusive partners or spouses continues to rise. It is now more imperative than ever that we work together on a bipartisan basis to ensure that this pandemic does not lend to increased instances of domestic violence or abuse that go unaddressed or unpunished.

Over a year ago on April 4, 2019, the House passed H.R.1585 the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019 with broad bipartisan support in an effort to reinstate the program which lapsed on February 19, 2019. To this day, VAWA remains unauthorized. While there is still funding available for these important programs housed under the Department of Justice’s (DOJ) Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), leaving some of the most vulnerable members of our society open to abuse is unacceptable, particularly in the midst of a global health pandemic.

As you work to build upon legislation like H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, given the new realities and dangers that at-risk persons face due to shelter in place and stay home orders, it is imperative that you include the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act in any next piece of legislation to move through Congress. We urge you to you include additional language granting flexibilities to these programs, and grantees, as they navigate the new realities and challenges posed by Coronavirus. Further, it is critical that additional funding be provided immediately for facilities and programs that assist victims of domestic violence to safely shelter in place. Those at risk for abuse should not have to choose between exposure to COVID-19 or their physical and mental safety and wellbeing.
We look forward to working with you and urge you to consider those most vulnerable as you work toward solutions to strengthen our families and communities.

Sincerely,

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

Susan Brooks
Member of Congress

Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress

Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Don Young
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

Cindy Axne
Member of Congress

Troy Balderson
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress

David Trone
Member of Congress

Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress

John Katko
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress
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<td>Alcee L. Hastings</td>
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<td>Bill Foster</td>
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Jim Cooper  
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Peter A. DeFazio  
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Rashida Tlaib  
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Ro Khanna  
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Darren Soto  
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Eddie Bernice Johnson  
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Joseph D. Morelle  
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Earl Blumenauer  
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Tom O’Halleran  
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James R. Langevin  
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Jahana Hayes  
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Pete Stauber  
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Bobby L. Rush  
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Brad Sherman  
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André Carson  
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Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress

Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress

Chrissy Houlanah  
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress

Jason Crow  
Member of Congress