Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

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

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

John D. Dingell
Member of Congress

Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Martin Heinrich
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

Gerry Connolly
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Pete Visclosky
Member of Congress

Ed Markey
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Betty Sutton
Member of Congress

Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress

Bob Dold
Member of Congress

Eni Faleomavaega
Member of Congress

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress

Hansen Clarke
Member of Congress

Nita Lowey
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress

Joe Baca
Member of Congress

John Lewis
Member of Congress

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress

Rosa DeLauro
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

Al Green
Member of Congress

Mike Michaud
Member of Congress

Sander Levin
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenaur
Member of Congress

Bruce Braley
Member of Congress

Janice Hahn
Member of Congress

Terri Sewell
Member of Congress

Rush Holt
Member of Congress

John Olver
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Charles A. Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Michael G. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Joe Heck
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

William Keating
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress

Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

Susan Davis
Member of Congress

Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress

John Carney
Member of Congress

Ed Pastor
Member of Congress

Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

Chris Gibson
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

Melvin Watt
Member of Congress

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

Jared Polis
Member of Congress

Jim Moran
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Adam Schiff
Member of Congress

Madeleine Bordallo
Member of Congress

Linda Sánchez
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Xavier Becerra
Member of Congress

Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress

Jon Runyan
Member of Congress

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress

Ron Barber
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Hank Johnson
Member of Congress

Karen Bass
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

Donna Edwards
Member of Congress

Dave Reichert
Member of Congress

Chris Murphy
Member of Congress

Laura Richardson
Member of Congress