

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 7, 2020

The Honorable José Serrano  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science & Related Agencies  
H-305  
United States Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science and Related Agencies  
H-305  
United States Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Serrano and Ranking Member Aderholt:

Thank you for your strong leadership as our country addresses the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. We are confident that your work in the House of Representatives is saving lives.

We write to respectfully urge any forthcoming legislation provide more assistance to Americans during the COVID-19 crisis include \$50 million to be appropriated for the purpose specified in 34 U.S.C. 10461(10).

While we are grateful that the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* made important investments in the Family Violence Prevention Services Act and in the National Domestic Violence Hotline, this bill did not include financial support for programs such as Family Justice Centers under 34 USC 10461(10). These programs are designed to bring together victim advocates from victim service providers, civil legal attorneys, legal advocates, government victim assistance, prosecutors, law enforcement, and representatives from community-based organizations into one centralized location.

At Family Justice Centers, survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and elder abuse have access to critically important wraparound resources. Survivors can receive assistance in obtaining temporary restraining orders, find safe housing, meet their prosecutors, work with detectives, and obtain forensic exams.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and stay at home orders, Family Justice Centers have seen a dramatic increase in domestic violence cases, with Centers across the country reporting requests for services increase by 20 to 30 percent. Therefore, we request that forthcoming legislation provide \$50 million in appropriations for the purpose specified in 34 U.S.C. 10461(10).

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



Josh Harder  
Member of Congress



Scott Peters  
Member of Congress



/s/  
Stephen Lynch  
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress




Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress




Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress

/s/  
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

/s/

Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro  
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress

/s/

Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress

/s/

Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress

/s/

Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



Kendra S. Horn  
Member of Congress

/s/

Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

/s/

Max Rose  
Member of Congress



Harley Rouda  
Member of Congress

/s/

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House; The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, House Minority Leader; The Honorable James Clyburn, Chair, House Select Committee on the Coronavirus Crisis