Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2013

Speaker John Boehner
Majority Leader Eric Cantor

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Cantor:

We are writing to urge you to immediately reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). As you know, we are long overdue in passing a reauthorization of this landmark piece of legislation which seeks to reduce instances of domestic violence and protect women who are victims of such violence.

Over the course of the past several years, we have met with constituents in our districts who agree that VAWA programs are an important part of a larger criminal justice framework that seeks to reduce abuse against women and children. We appreciate the need to make efficient and effective use of federal dollars, and believe that VAWA programs in our districts have met that threshold and have been a success in curbing domestic violence and supporting victims. Now is the time to seek bipartisan compromise on the reauthorization of these programs. VAWA programs save lives, and we must allow states and communities the opportunity to build upon the successes of current VAWA programs so that we can help even more people.

It is unfortunate that states are already preparing for Congress's inaction. In New Jersey, for example, the state legislature recently passed a bridge fund bill to fill the void left by a lack of federal funds in the event VAWA is not reauthorized.

We believe a bipartisan plan to reauthorize VAWA is more important than ever. Last year, in a bipartisan letter many of us in the Republican Conference wrote to the Judiciary Committee, we said: "VAWA must reach all victims and perpetrators of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in every community in the country." This statement still holds true, and underscores the need to reauthorize this critical legislation. If you have any questions, or if we can be of additional assistance, your staff may contact Joe Heaton with Rep. Runyan at (202) 225-4765.

Sincerely,

Jon Runyan
Member of Congress

Sincerely,

Charlie Dent
Member of Congress

Sincerely,

Dave Reichert
Member of Congress

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Sincerely,

Richard Hanna
Member of Congress

Sincerely,

David Joyce
Member of Congress

Sincerely,

Shelley Moore-Capito
Member of Congress

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Frank LoBiondo
Member of Congress

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Tom Reed
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Member of Congress

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Michael Grimm
Member of Congress