

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Eric Cantor
Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
303 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader Elect
United States House of Representatives
2421 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 27, 2014

The following 301 national, state, and local organizations committed to ending domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking, are writing to urge you to move forward in the House of Representatives with passage of an immigration reform bill. Congress has an opportunity, through immigration reform, to fix a broken system that leaves millions of undocumented women and children extremely vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, both at home and in the workplace, and isolated from seeking help. It has been a year since the Senate passed a bipartisan immigration reform bill (S. 744), which includes a pathway to legal status and work authorization for millions of individuals, an increase in the U visa cap for victims of crime, better oversight of foreign labor recruiters, and many other significant improvements in protections for immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. We are deeply concerned that without your leadership and support, this term of Congress will come to an end without much needed immigration reform.

The commitment to improve prevention and intervention efforts on behalf of *all* survivors was affirmed and enhanced by Congress with the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 2013. When VAWA was first enacted in 1994, Congress recognized that immigration status can often be used as a tool of abuse. Abusive partners and opportunistic predators often exploit a victim's lack of immigration status, or dependent immigration status, as a way to maintain power and control, increase fear, and keep victims silent. For this reason,

every version of VAWA has included and enhanced limited special remedies targeted to helping immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking.

While the VAWA immigration remedies are important, they reach a limited number of individuals and are only available after the abuse has occurred, only if the survivor is able to access services and support to pursue these remedies, and only if the survivor meets the narrow criteria. Immigration reform that provides a pathway to legal status and work authorization will significantly enhance prevention and intervention efforts, by providing an opportunity for millions of immigrants to pursue a pathway to safety, stability, and economic self-sufficiency for themselves and their children.

Additionally, efforts to repair the immigration system should not drive victims further into the shadows. Numerous law enforcement leaders and associations, including the Major Cities Chiefs Association, have spoken out against any congressional action that would require state and local law enforcement agencies to engage in federal immigration enforcement. Both law enforcement and victim-advocates have repeatedly raised serious concerns about any such engagement, including among other things, that it would result in fear and distrust of local police, undermine community policing, drive victims further into the shadows, and divert scarce and critical resources away from their core mission.

As our nation seeks to improve efforts to prevent and end domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, it is important to make sure that our policies do not have the unintended consequence of increasing danger for victims and decreasing their access to justice. It is imperative for Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to pass immigration reform that can help strengthen our nation's commitment to improve prevention efforts and help *all* survivors.

Sincerely,

National Organizations (31)

American Association of University Women

Freedom Network USA

Americans for Immigrant Justice

Futures Without Violence

Asian Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence

Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community

ASISTA Immigrant Assistance

International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America

Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities

Legal Momentum

Mil Mujeres

National Alliance to End Sexual Violence

National Center for Victims of Crime

National Center on Domestic Violence,
Trauma & Mental Health

National Clearinghouse for the Defense of
Battered Women

National Coalition of Anti-Violence
Programs

National Coalition Against Domestic
Violence

National Council of Jewish Women

National Domestic Violence Hotline

National Immigrant Justice Center

National Indigenous Women's Resource
Center, Inc.

National Latino Alliance for the Elimination
of Domestic Violence

National Network to End Domestic
Violence

National Organization for Women

National Organization of Asian Pacific
Islander Ending Sexual Violence

National Resource Center on Domestic
Violence

Tahirih Justice Center

The Northwest Network of Bisexual, Trans,
Lesbian & Gay Survivors of Abuse

Women Donors Network

YWCA USA

9to5

Alabama

Alabama National Organization for Women

Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama

Arizona

Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and
Domestic Violence

Northland Family Help Center

Kingman Aid to Abused People

Time Out, Inc.

Arkansas

Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic
Violence

California

California Partnership to End Domestic
Violence

Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking

Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach

Casa de Esperanza

End DV

Human Options

Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County

Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice

Los Angeles LGBT Center

Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence

Opening Doors, Inc.

Tahoe SAFE Alliance

Wild Iris Family Counseling & Crisis Center

Colorado

Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Latina Safehouse

SAVA Center

Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy
Network

San Luis Valley Immigrant Resource Center

Connecticut

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic
Violence

Greater Hartford Legal Aid

Delaware

Delaware Coalition Against Domestic
Violence

District of Colombia

DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence

DC Rape Crisis Center

Florida

Florida Council Against Sexual Violence

Angel of Hope

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Council of Greater Miami

Rural Women's Health Project

Survivors' Pathway Organization

UNO Immigration Ministry

Vida Legal Assistance Inc.

Georgia

Georgia Coalition Against Domestic
Violence

Caminar Latino

Cherokee Family Violence Center

Hawaii

Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic
Violence

Women Helping Women

YWCA of Kauai

Idaho

Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic
Violence

Family Crisis Center

Family Safety Network

Mini-Cassia Shelter

The Advocates

YWCA of Lewiston

Illinois

Illinois Coalition Against Domestic
Violence

Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Illinois National Organization for Women

Kankakee County Center Against Sexual Assault

Pillars' Community Services

Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault

Rape Advocacy, Counseling, & Education Services

Rape Crisis Services of the Women's Center

Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling

Sexual Assault Counseling and Information Service

Sexual Assault and Family Emergencies Crisis Center

Safe Passage

The Center for Prevention of Abuse

Turning Point, Inc.

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

YWCA of the Sauk Valley

Indiana

Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Latino Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

Iowa

Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Catholic Charities Phoenix House

Cedar Valley Friends of the Family

Crisis Intervention Services

Family Resources

Justice For Our Neighbors

Latinas Unidas por un Nuevo Amanecer

Monsoon United Asian Women of Iowa

Waypoint Services

Kansas

Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence

Washta'ge Peacemakers Men's Project

Kentucky

Kentucky Domestic Violence Association

Louisiana

Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Maine

Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence

Maryland

Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Maryland Network Against Domestic

Violence National Organization for Women, Maryland Chapter

Anne Arundel County NOW

CASA, Inc.

DC Alliance, Empowering Homicide Survivors, Inc.

Dove Center

Esperanza Center, Catholic Charities of Baltimore

Faith Community Nurses

Mid Shore Council on Family Violence

Pro Bono Counseling Project

Still I Rise, Inc.

Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc.

Massachusetts

Jane Doe Inc., the Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women

Center for Violence Prevention and Recovery

Elizabeth Freeman Center, Inc.

Family and Community Resources, Inc.

Health Imperatives

REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, Inc.

The Center for Hope and Healing, Inc.

The Second Step

UUUM/Renewal House

Michigan

Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence

Michigan Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

Caring House, Inc

SafeHouse Center

Women's Aid Service, Inc.

YWCA, West Central Michigan

Minnesota

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women

Anna Marie's Alliance

Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio

Southwest Crisis Center

Someplace Safe

Domestic Abuse Project

Mississippi

Shelter and Assistance in Family Emergencies, Inc.

Missouri

Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Montana

Montana Coalition against Domestic & Sexual Violence

Nebraska

Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition

Nevada

Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence

S.A.F.E. House

Safe Nest

Tahoe SAFE Alliance

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic
and Sexual Violence

New Jersey

New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women

The Latin American Legal Defense and
Education Fund, Inc.

New Mexico

New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic
Violence

Albuquerque Sexual Assault Nurse
Examiners Collaborative

Enlace Comunitario

New Mexico Asian Family Center

Rape Crisis Center of Central New Mexico

New York

New York State Coalition Against Domestic
Violence

Arab-American Family Support Center

Barrier Free Living

Brighter Tomorrows

Catholic Charities Buffalo

CONNECT

Crime Victims Treatment Center of Mount
Sinai St. Luke's and Roosevelt Hospitals

Day One

Equinox

Girls for Gender Equity

Good Shepherd Services

New Destiny Housing Corporation

New York Asian Women's Center

New York City Alliance Against Sexual
Assault

Northern Manhattan Perinatal Partnership,
Inc

Ohel Children's Home and Family Services

Safe Horizon

Sakhi for South Asian Women

Sanctuary for Families

The Center for Anti-Violence Education

The Children's Aid Society

The Healing Center

The Safe Center LI, Inc.

The Victim Resource Center of the Finger
Lakes

Violence Intervention Program

Voices of Women

YWCA Northeastern New York

North Carolina

North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic
Violence

Carteret County Domestic Violence
Program, Inc

Families First, Inc.

Family Services of Davidson County, Inc

Mitchell County SafePlace Inc.

Sarah's Refuge, Inc.

Shelter Home of Caldwell County, Inc.

Steps to HOPE, Inc.

Wesley Shelter, Inc.

North Dakota

North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services

Ohio

Ohio Domestic Violence Network

Asian Services in Action, Inc.

CHOICES, for Victims of Domestic Violence

Columbus City Attorney's Office, Domestic Violence Unit

Domestic Violence Project Inc.

Domestic Violence Unit, Prosecutor's Division, Columbus City Attorney's Office

Every Woman's House

Nationwide Children's Hospital

Rape Crisis & Counseling Center

Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

Oregon

Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Lake County Crisis Center

Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Service

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Pennsylvania National Organization for Women

A Way Out

A Woman's Place

Alle-Kiski Area HOPE Center, Inc.

Berks Women in Crisis

Domestic Violence Center

Domestic Violence Intervention of Lebanon County, Inc.

Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland & Perry

Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern PA

HAVEN of Tioga County

Huntingdon House

Safe Journey

The Abuse Network

Transitions

Victims Resource Center

Women Against Abuse

Women in Need

Women's Center of Montgomery County

Women's Law Project

Women's Resource Center

YWCA Greater Harrisburg

YWCA Northcentral PA - Wise Options

YWCA York

Rhode Island

Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Rhode Island National Organization for Women

Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center

Sojourner House

South Carolina

South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

South Carolina Victim Assistance Network

Hispanic Alliance of South Carolina

Tennessee

Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence

Texas

Texas Association Against Sexual Assault

Bro Models

Crisis Center of the Plains

Denton County Friends of the Family

Friendship of Women, Inc.

Gateway Family Services, Inc.

Human Rights Initiative of North Texas

Panhandle Crisis Center, Inc.

Safe Place Inc.

The Montrose Center

Utah

Utah Domestic Violence Coalition

New Hope Crisis Center

Peace House, Inc.

Virginia

The Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance

Empowerhouse

Sexual Assault Resource Agency

Shelter for Help in Emergency

Vermont

Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

AWARE, Inc.

WomenSafe

Washington

Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Washington State National Organization for Women

King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Abused Deaf Women Advocacy Services

Consejo Counseling and Referral Service

Domestic Violence Services of Benton & Franklin Counties

Emergency Support Shelter

Forks Abuse Program

Interim CDA

Jewish Family Service

Lower Valley Crisis and Support Services

Makah Nation

New Beginnings

Northwest Immigrant Rights Project

Room One

Rural Resources/Family Support Center

Seattle National Organization for Women

Tacoma National Organization for Women

The DoVE Project

Turning Pointe Domestic Violence Services

YWCA of Clarkston

YWCA Pierce County

YWCA of Spokane

West Virginia

West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Wisconsin

End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin – Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Advocates of Ozaukee

Family Advocates, Inc.

Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration

HAVEN, INC.

HELP of Door County Inc.

People Against a Violent Environment

Personal Development Center, Inc.

The Association for the Prevention of Family Violence

Tri-County Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

Wise Women Gathering Place

Women and Children's Horizons

Wyoming

Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

American Samoa

American Samoa Alliance against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Guam

Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence

Puerto Rico

Coordinara Paz para la Mujer