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
- Americans for Immigrant Justice
- Asian Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence
- ASISTA Immigrant Assistance
- Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities
- Freedom Network USA
- Futures Without Violence
- Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community
- International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America
- 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 Columbia**  
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
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**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

**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