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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

February 21, 2019

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to urge action on legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

VAWA funding has helped local prosecutors and other law enforcement officials improve services and protections for victims of crime and helped change the way that the criminal justice system responds to domestic violence. The expiration of these programs last December has elevated the need for expeditious action to provide a multi-year reauthorization for VAWA.

VAWA grants encourage communities to adopt unique approaches to entrenched problems and help ensure that all parts of the safety net for battered women are addressed. The County supports continuation of these programs to protect victims and hold abusers accountable, including:

- Domestic Violence Rapid Response Teams
- Domestic Assault Forensic Exams
- Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams
- High-Risk Domestic Violence Teams
- Trauma-Informed Training
- Education for children and teens

Please work with your colleagues to enact legislation to reauthorize VAWA grant programs as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilchrest
Washington Representative

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