

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



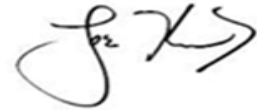
Scott Peters
Member of Congress



Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



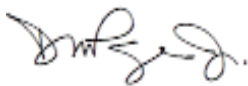
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



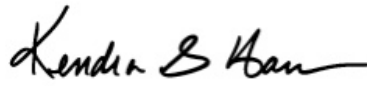
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Kendra S. Horn
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Harley Rouda
Member of Congress

Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Full list of signatures:

Mike Levin
Josh Harder
Scott Peters
Stephen Lynch
Jahana Hayes
Nydia M. Velázquez
Susan Davis
Gwen Moore
Mark Takano
Juan Vargas
Jamie Raskin
Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Derek Kilmer
Ro Khanna
James P. McGovern
Ruben Gallego
Kathy Castor
Mikie Sherrill
Adriano Espaillat
Tony Cárdenas
Tulsi Gabbard
Terri A. Sewell
Marcia L. Fudge
Mike Thompson
Earl Blumenauer
Ami Bera, M.D.
Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Chris Pappas
Max Rose
Albio Sires
Kendra S. Horn
Diana DeGette
Rosa DeLauro
Zoe Lofgren

Anthony G. Brown
Brian Higgins
Harley Rouda

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