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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 16, 2021

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
SH-331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

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

Thank you for sponsoring 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 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 programs to protect victims and hold abusers accountable, such as domestic violence rapid response teams, domestic assault forensic exams, domestic violence fatality review teams, high-risk domestic violence teams, trauma-informed training, and education for children and teens.

Thank you for your consideration and support for legislation to continue and expand these programs.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilcrest
Washington Representative

DWG: awg