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United States Hispanic Leadership Institute
United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce
Voto Latino

April 1, 2019

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of the United States House of Representatives,

On behalf of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), a coalition of 45 leading national Latino nonpartisan civil rights and advocacy organizations, **we write to urge each member of the U.S. House of Representatives to vote “yes” on HR 1585, the bipartisan Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Reauthorization of 2019. NHLA will closely monitor this matter to include in future NHLA scorecards evaluating each Member’s support for the Latino community.**

Since the enactment of VAWA in 1994, and during each subsequent reauthorization of VAWA in 2000, 2005 and 2013, Congress has continued to support and *improve* protections for survivors in a bipartisan manner. We are reminded every day of the need to continue to improve and expand prevention and intervention efforts nationally in all communities. Therefore, it would not be acceptable to merely maintain the status quo with a straight reauthorization of VAWA, nor would it be acceptable to try to undermine current protections and reduce access to safety and justice for victims and survivors, particularly those from vulnerable communities.

In addition to ensuring important pathways to safety, justice, and well-being for all survivors, including immigrant survivors, LGBTQ survivors, and those from other marginalized or underserved communities, the VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2019 (HR 1585) includes moderate yet important enhancements that reflect many identified needs to continue to improve access to intervention and prevention services. The bill, among other things, provides increased resources to implement and expand effective prevention and assistance programs for youth; provides improved implementation and coverage of federal laws to reduce domestic and dating violence homicides; offers improved protections for survivors in federal public, subsidized, and assisted housing; supports victims and survivors who need assistance rebuilding financially; improves provisions to enhance access to safety for Native survivors on Tribal land; and improves the healthcare response to domestic violence and sexual assault.

Thank you for your consideration and support. If you have any questions please contact Andrea Senteno, at MALDEF, at asenteno@maldef.org or Rosie Hidalgo, at

Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities at rhidalgo@casadeesperanza.org.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Saenz
MALDEF, President
and General Counsel
NHLA Chair



Patricia J. Tototzintle
Casa de Esperanza: Natl
Latin@ Network, CEO
Latina Task Force, Co-Chair



Jessica González-Rojas
National Latina Institute for
Reproductive Health, Exec. Dir.
NHLA Vice Chair
Latina Task Force Co-Chair