



COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Milwaukee County

April 20, 2012

The Honorable Herb Kohl
330 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Johnson
386 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Petri
2462 Rayburn House Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Paul Ryan
1233 Longworth House Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gwen Moore
2245 Rayburn House Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
2449 Rayburn House Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Kohl and Johnson and Representatives Petri, Ryan, Moore and Sensenbrenner:

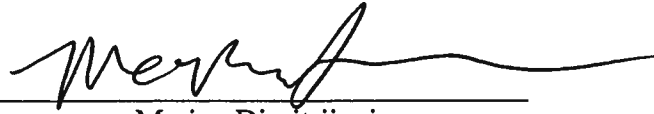
Since the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was enacted as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, the law has offered a comprehensive national approach to reducing domestic and sexual violence against women and the impact these crimes have on the lives of women. As Supervisors elected to the Milwaukee County Board, we urge Senate passage of S. 1925, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2011 and House consideration of similar legislation that will lead to final enactment of this bill during the current Congress.

VAWA created powerful new criminal and civil enforcement tools to hold perpetrators accountable and to provide resources for victims to ensure their safety and to gain justice on behalf of victims. VAWA funds are used by the Office of the Milwaukee County District Attorney to support our Domestic Violence and Sensitive Crime units. Specifically, VAWA funding has allowed the District Attorney's office to hire four domestic violence prosecutors, one sensitive crimes victim advocate, and four contracted victim advocates. VAWA funding was also utilized as a stopgap measure to fund four additional domestic violence prosecutors when previous funding was discontinued. Without these valuable resources, Milwaukee County would not have been able to give victims of violent crime the dedicated attention they deserve.

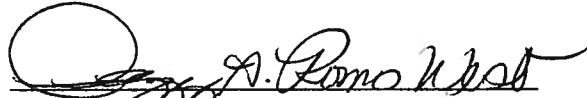
The United States Senate has prepared the most recent version of VAWA, S. 1925, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2011. The bill has been favorably marked up by the Senate Judiciary Committee and is now being prepared for Senate floor consideration. Enactment of the Senate authorizing bill is essential to directing law enforcement priorities in the coming years, as well as determining the availability of grant resources for these purposes.

Your consideration of our request, from a local perspective, is appreciated. We look forward to hearing back from you and are confident that Congress will be able to reach a positive resolution and take affirmative action to reauthorize VAWA.

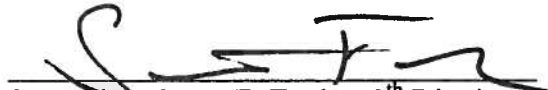
Sincerely,



Marina Dimitrijevic
Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors



Supervisor Peggy A. Romo West
1st Vice-Chair, County Board



Supervisor Steve F. Taylor, 9th District
2nd Vice-Chair, County Board

