

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert B. Aderholt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cartwright and Ranking Member Aderholt:

As you make appropriations decisions for fiscal year 2023, we urge you to ensure that efforts to help survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking receive the support they deserve.

In March, we were pleased to see *The Abby Honold Act* signed into law. Named for a heroic former University of Minnesota sexual assault survivor, this legislation directs the Office on Violence Against Women within the U.S. Department of Justice to establish a grant program to help law enforcement agencies implement evidence-based, trauma-informed policies as they seek to bring justice to victims.

The challenges ahead could not be more urgent. Statistics suggest an American is sexually assaulted every 68 seconds, and nearly 20 individuals are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States *every minute*. Almost 25 million Americans have been stalked. Yet, many of these attempted or completed crimes are never reported. In the case of sexual assaults, only 25% of incidents were reported to police in 2018.¹

We must ensure that survivors feel more comfortable engaging with law enforcement and that these and other first responders have the training and tools necessary to help them effectively bring perpetrators to justice. To that end, we hope you will grant full support to the important work of the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women and related agencies in their efforts to implement the provisions of the *The Abby Honold Act*.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and know that our offices are willing to assist your efforts in whatever way possible.

¹ See the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (www.ncadv.org) and Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (www.rainn.org) for these and other statistics.

Sincerely,



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress