



March 9, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United State House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20151

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

The undersigned organizations represent a diverse group of housing providers, including private property owners and managers and public housing authorities (PHAs), who are directly affected by the implementation of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). We support the continuing efforts to provide housing solutions for victims of domestic violence contained in the bipartisan legislation S. 3623, entitled the “Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022” as introduced on February 9, 2022. We are pleased that the measure recognizes and respects the differing characteristics, roles and capabilities of various housing providers and property types.

Our industry strongly supports the goals of VAWA and we have worked closely with Congress to ensure that victims are provided protections under federal housing programs. By way of background, through numerous reauthorizations of VAWA, housing providers have worked collaboratively with advocates and Congress to enact critical housing protections for victims of domestic violence.

In 2006, housing provisions were first incorporated into VAWA, ensuring victims of domestic violence, dating violence and stalking would not lose or be denied housing based on an incident of domestic violence. The bill also included a novel process to permit a lease to be bifurcated - allowing the removal of a perpetrator of violence without evicting a victim or their family. The 2013 reauthorization built on the 2006 protections by expanding VAWA’s application to additional rental housing programs. In addition, the bill improved existing law by allowing property owners to request third-party verification if they receive conflicting information about a domestic violence incident.

Importantly, the current reauthorization establishes a Violence Prevention Office at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and takes steps to better address the long-term stability of victims who are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless. Finally, the measure requires that the regulatory process instituted to enhance compliance includes close cooperation between housing providers and the domestic violence victims' advocates to ensure that the Act provides vital protections for victims, while balancing the needs of victims, their communities and housing providers alike.

Our industry is committed to providing high quality, affordable, and safe homes and we believe that preserving housing for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking is critically important. We urge support for the "Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022."

Sincerely,

CCIM Institute
Council for Affordable and Rural Housing
Institute of Real Estate Management
Manufactured Housing Institute
National Affordable Housing Management Association
National Apartment Association
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Housing Cooperatives
National Association of REALTORS®
National Leased Housing Association
National Multifamily Housing Council

cc: U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Senate