



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

February 4, 2013

The Honorable Gwen Moore
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Moore:

On behalf of the 137,000 members and affiliates of the American Psychological Association (APA), I am writing to thank you for your invaluable leadership in introducing the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (H.R. 11). As the legislative process advances, APA offers its full support of your efforts to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

As you know, nearly one in four women in the United States reports experiencing domestic violence at some point in her life, and 15 million children live in families in which intimate partner violence has occurred within the past year. Domestic violence can result in significant mental and behavioral health consequences including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, relationship problems, diminished self-esteem, social isolation, substance use disorders, and suicidal behavior. VAWA programs can help to mitigate these negative outcomes by providing a vital link to services and supports for survivors and their families.

APA applauds your commitment to protect survivors of intimate partner violence with a comprehensive VAWA reauthorization. In particular, we appreciate the inclusion of essential public health provisions to reauthorize and strengthen the health care system's identification, assessment, and response to violence, as well as provisions to protect vulnerable populations, including Native women, immigrants, and LGBT individuals.

We welcome the opportunity to work with you to address these important issues. For further information, please contact Nida Corry, Ph.D., in our Public Interest Government Relations Office at (202) 336-5931 or ncorry@apa.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gwendolyn Puryear Keita".

Gwendolyn Puryear Keita, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Public Interest Directorate