July 25, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner
1011 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
235 Cannon H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

Major Cities Chiefs have long supported the vital work of the Justice Department under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). This legislation established programs and services that have greatly strengthened what the criminal justice system may do to protect and serve women who fall victim to violence and abuse.

Police agencies from all the major cities across our Nation strongly support the Violence Against Women Act and urge Congress to include provisions that protect all victims, including Native American women and those who may fear immigration action. Our policy has always been to oppose barriers to crime reporting and encourage all victims of violence and abuse to call upon their local law enforcement agency for protection, assistance, and vigorous enforcement.

We urge Congress to swiftly adopt legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, in a comprehensive form that reaches any and all women who may suffer violence and abuse.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Ramsey
Police Commissioner, City of Philadelphia
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association