March XX, 2016

The Hon. Robert Goodlatte, Chairman  
The Hon. John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Member  
House Committee on the Judiciary  
House Committee on the Judiciary  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
B-351 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
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Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Conyers, Jr.,

We, the undersigned groups, representing a broad cross section of the criminal justice and victim advocacy communities, respectfully request your support for H.R. 4602, the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016 (introduced by Reps. Poe and Costa). This bipartisan legislation builds on the Justice for All Act to improve the criminal justice system, help victims and exonerate the innocent.

H.R. 4602 strengthens victims’ rights and programs by increasing access to restitution and reauthorizing victim notification grants, as well as renewing the program to provide legal help to victims.

The act improves the use of DNA to provide justice to more victims, by supporting work to reduce the rape kit backlog, assisting law enforcement in auditing backlogged cases, and expanding the use of sexual assault nurse examiners in underserved communities. It also works to make sure DNA protects the innocent by improving access to post-conviction DNA testing.

Additionally, the bill works to improve the administration of criminal justice programs by requiring the Justice Department to assist state and local government to improve their indigent defense systems. It also strengthens the Prison Rape Elimination Act by improving accountability measures to ensure states enact rape reduction policies as quickly as possible and protecting VAWA funding streams that are critical to their crime prevention and victim support efforts.

Because this bill has tremendous potential to improve victims’ access to justice, support law enforcement, exonerate the innocent, and strengthen and improve the criminal justice system, we urge the committee to bring this bill up for timely consideration and passage.

Sincerely,

Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center  
H-E-A-R-T, Inc.  
Joyful Heart Foundation
Just Detention International
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
National Center for Victims of Crime
National Children’s Alliance
National Criminal Justice Association
National Domestic Violence Hotline
Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)