

March XX, 2016

The Hon. Charles Grassley, Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Hon. Patrick Leahy, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Leahy,

We, the undersigned groups, representing a broad cross section of the criminal justice and victim advocacy communities, respectfully request your support for S. 2575, the *Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016* (introduced by Sens. Cornyn and Leahy). This bipartisan legislation builds on the *Justice for All Act* to improve the criminal justice system, help victims and exonerate the innocent.

S. 2575 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)