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The Honorable Robert Casey
U.S. Senator
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senator
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Casey and Murkowski:

On behalf of the Daughters of Penelope (DOP), a preeminent international organization for women of Hellenic heritage and Philhellenes that sponsors and supports domestic violence shelters throughout the United States, I write to commend your sponsorship of **S.2259, to reauthorize the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act**. We are pleased to see bipartisan support for the bill. The Daughters of Penelope supports the legislation.

As you are aware, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) is a lifeline for survivors of domestic violence. It supports lifesaving services including: emergency shelters, legal assistance, crisis hotlines, counseling, and programs for underserved communities throughout the United States, American Indian and Alaska Native communities, and territories. FVPSA is the only federal funding source dedicated to domestic violence shelters and programs, supporting almost 1,600 community-based programs through state formula grants. We are pleased S.2259 ensures this vital program is reauthorized through 2024.

For the Daughters of Penelope, there is strong interest in the legislation's enactment because of the vital assistance FVPSA provides to **Penelope House Domestic Violence Center**, Mobile, Alabama, which DOP members helped to found. Penelope House was the first domestic violence shelter established in the state of Alabama in 1979, and it has been recognized by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as a model shelter.

- FVPSA funds the salaries of two full-time and one part-time staff for Penelope House's Prevention Education Program and program supplies (videos, literature, items with the crisis number, etc.) that are viewed by more than 20,000 children each year in the public, private, and Catholic schools in the four counties Penelope House provides services. The counties (Mobile, Washington, Clarke, and Choctaw) possess several of the underserved populations as defined by S.2259, including Indigenous peoples and those individuals on the basis of geographical location.
- A FVPSA grant also partially funds staff that provides domestic violence training and educational outreach efforts.

Our organization also is proud to sponsor and support a second domestic violence shelter, **Penelope's Place**, in Brockton, Massachusetts. Moreover, many of our 250-plus chapters—including 12 located in Pennsylvania—support their local domestic violence centers. FVPSA is essential to all these shelters.

Therefore, we applaud you for taking the lead to stand with survivors of domestic violence with the important need to reauthorize the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act that provides critical supportive services. We look forward to working with you and your staffs to raise awareness of the legislation during the 116th Congress.

Respectfully submitted,

Celia Kachmarski
Grand President