

KATIE PORTER
45TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INVESTOR PROTECTION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND
CAPITAL MARKETS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0545

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November 14, 2019

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, FDA & Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, FDA & Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, Chairman Bishop, and Ranking Member Fortenberry:

We are writing in support of funding and report language included in the House-passed FY20 appropriations bills pertaining to the grant program authorized by Section 12502 of the 2018 Farm Bill, PL 115-334, as well as in the agriculture appropriations portion of the Senate version of HR 3055.

Section 12502 of the 2018 Farm Bill incorporated the language of the Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act and authorized a new grant program to provide emergency and transitional shelter options for domestic violence survivors with companion animals. Abusers often threaten or inflict violence on pets as a way to intimidate or exert control over their partners and prevent them from leaving. Indeed, research has found that up to 84 percent of women entering domestic violence shelters reported that their partners abused or killed the family pet. This vital grant program will help the federal government ensure that more domestic violence shelters are able to accommodate victims with pets or arrange for third party pet shelter.

Recognizing the importance of addressing this problem, the House-passed FY20 agriculture appropriations bill provided \$2 million in funding to start this grant program. In addition, the House included report language directing the secretaries of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, and Housing and Urban Development to work together to implement the grant program as required by Section 12502. The Senate-passed version of HR 3055 provides \$3 million for PAWS implementation. However, none of the Senate bills include the report language contained in the House bills. Therefore, we urge you to agree to the Senate funding level and support maintaining the House report language during conference negotiations with the Senate.

Specifically, we ask that the final FY20 appropriations bill provide \$3 million in funding for the grants authorized by Section 12502 of PL 115-334 and that the PAWS Act-related committee report language accompanying the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Act (HRpt 116-107, page 34, related to section 754 of HR 3164), the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Act (HRpt 116-62, page 162), and the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Act (HRpt 116-106, page 103) be maintained.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and we look forward to working with you to provide the resources necessary to empower victims of domestic violence escape their abuse.

Sincerely,



KATIE PORTER
Member of Congress



STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress



ANTHONY G. BROWN
Member of Congress



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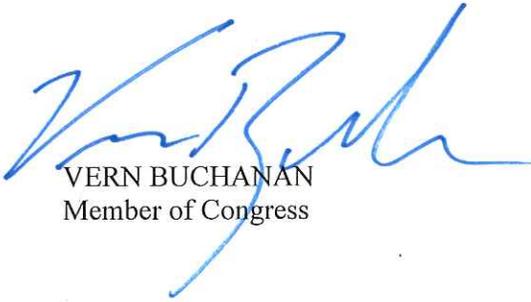
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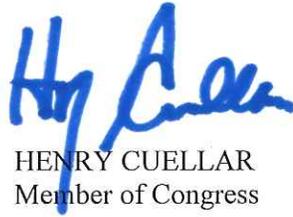
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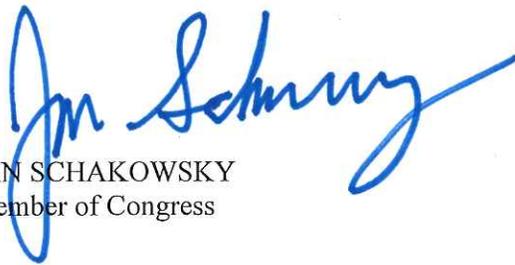
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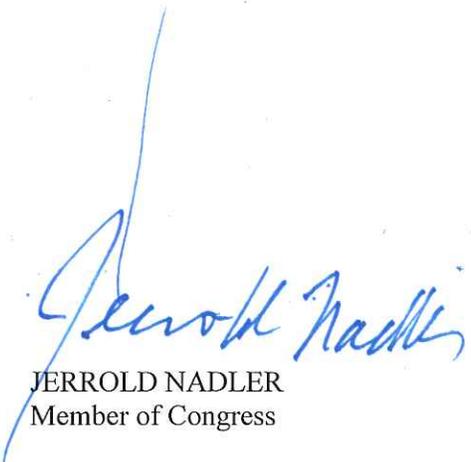
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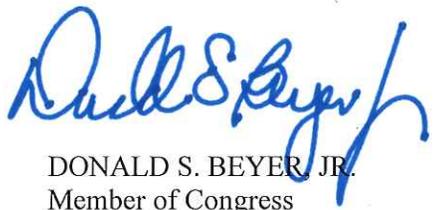
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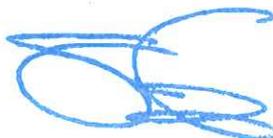
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