



Daughters of Penelope
1909 Q Street, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20009

Phone: 202.234.9741
Fax: 202.483.6983
www.daughtersofpenelope.org
dophq@ahempa.org

[DATE]

Honorable [Name]
United States Representative
[Room #] [Office Name] House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congress[wo]man [Last Name]:

On behalf of the Daughters of Penelope (DOP), a premier international women's association, I am writing as a constituent to invite you to join the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus.

The bipartisan Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus is a voice in Congress for victims of crime. Crime recognizes no political parties, ideologies, or Congressional district boundaries. The mission of the Caucus is to elevate crime victim issues in Congress in a bipartisan manner without infringing on the rights of the accused, and to represent and to advocate before the Administration and within Congress on behalf of crime victims. The Caucus is co-chaired by its founders, Congressmen Ted Poe and Jim Costa.

The Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus is a proven and effective leader in advocating for crime victims. During its nine-year existence, the Caucus has taken the lead in protecting programs that provide critical support for victim services throughout the nation, including the *Crime Victims Fund (VOCA)* and *Violence Against Woman Act (VAWA)*. The Caucus was also instrumental in the enactment of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, the Cruise Vessel Safety and Security Act, the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act of 2011, the Victims of Child Abuse Act Reauthorization of 2013, and the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015. It also has co-sponsored resolutions recognizing National Crime Victims' Rights Week, National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and National Stalking Awareness Month.

Why is the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus of importance to the Daughters of Penelope?

For decades, the Daughters of Penelope has had a vested interest in the issue of domestic violence, supporting local shelters and the victims they house all across the country. In 1979, the DOP sponsored **Penelope House**, a nationally-recognized model shelter located in Mobile, Alabama. Moreover, in October 2009, the DOP opened its second nationally-sponsored shelter, **Penelope's Place**, in Brockton, Massachusetts. Our chapters also support local domestic violence shelters. Because the Caucus creates awareness of legislation that assists victims of domestic violence, the DOP has an interest to see the Caucus grow and flourish.

For more information on the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, or to join, please contact Rep. Ted Poe or Rep. Jim Costa.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. I anticipate a favorable reply.

Respectfully submitted,
[NAME]
[CHAPTER/DISTRICT TITLE, if appropriate]
[FULL ADDRESS]

Cc: DOP Executive Director Elena Saviolakis