



Daughters of Penelope
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[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, and its local Chapter [Number], I am writing to invite you to join the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus.

The bipartisan Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus was formed three years ago to be an advocate and voice for victims of all types of crime in Congress. 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 bipartisan Caucus is co-chaired by its founder Rep. Ted Poe and Rep. Jim Costa.

The Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus has proven to be an effective leader in advocating for crime victims. During its young existence, the Caucus took the lead in protecting programs that provide critical financial support for victim services throughout the nation, including the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA). The Caucus was also instrumental in the enactment of the *Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006* and has co-sponsored resolutions recognizing National Crime Victims' Rights Week, National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, National Stalking Awareness Month, National Peace Officers' Memorial Day, and National Remembrance for Murder Victims.

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, as you are well aware in October 2009, the DOP opened its second nationally-sponsored shelter, Penelope's Place, in Brockton, Massachusetts. Thank you for your attendance at this important event.** 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.

To join the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, or for more information, please contact Rachel Latta (Rep. Poe), 202.225.6565, or Bret Rumbeck (Rep. Costa), 202.225.3341. Thank you for your consideration of our request. We anticipate a favorable reply.

Respectfully submitted,

[Your Name]
[Title – if applicable]
[ADDRESS]
[CITY, STATE, ZIP]

Cc: Christine Constantine, DOP National President