

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 13, 2011

Director Robert S. Mueller  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

Dear Director Mueller:

We are encouraged by the FBI's intention to revisit the way rape is defined in the Uniform Crime Report (UCR). We urge you to comprehensively revise this definition to enable the Bureau to collect more accurate statistics to better reflect the prevalence of this heinous crime.

The UCR currently defines rape as the "carnal knowledge of a female, forcibly and against her will." In use for more than 80 years, this narrow formulation fails to include women sexually assaulted while drugged or under the influence of alcohol as well as those violated in other ways. It also explicitly excludes male victims.

Unfortunately, the Bureau's flawed definition has resulted in the consistent under-reporting of rape in the UCR. According to a recent New York Times article, 1,400 such crimes in Chicago were omitted from the 2010 edition of the Uniform Crime Report because Chicago employs different criteria to categorize these offenses. For the same reason, in New York City, only 1,036 of a total of 1,369 rape cases were included in the UCR count. The exclusion of this and other data could contribute to misleading conclusions about the incidence of rape, with serious consequences for the essential resources and tools we need to combat this crime.

Better statistics are also critical to our ability to effectively evaluate our progress in reducing the scourge of sexual assault in America. Law enforcement officers agree – in a recent survey conducted by the Police Executive Research Forum, nearly 80 percent of police departments polled believe the federal definition of rape should be revised.

We are gratified by your willingness to give serious consideration to adopting a more accurate and expansive definition of rape and look forward to continuing to work with you to fight this crime and support its victims.

Sincerely,



Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress

*Gary L. Ackerman*  
Gary Ackerman  
Member of Congress

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Rosa DeLauro  
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Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress

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Barbara Lee  
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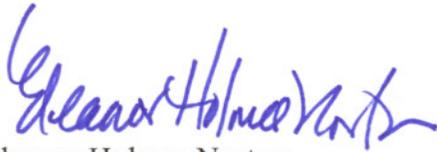
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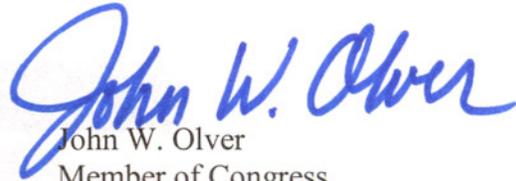
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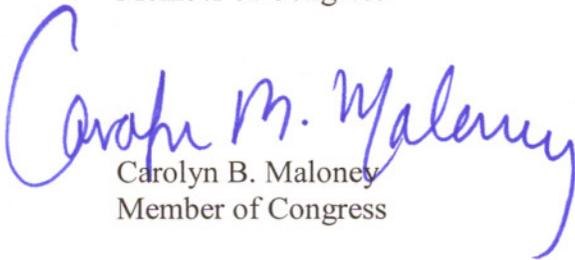
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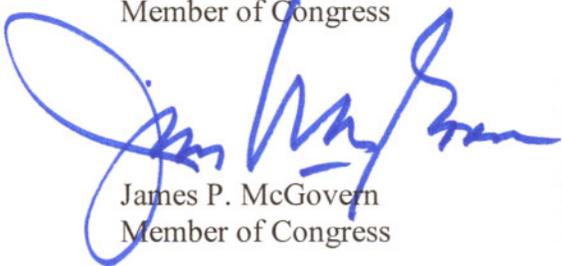
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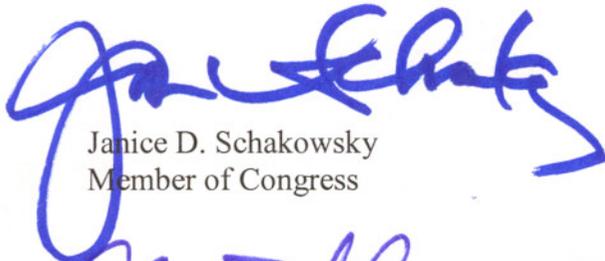
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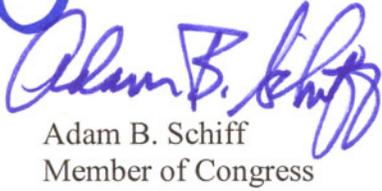
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Member of Congress



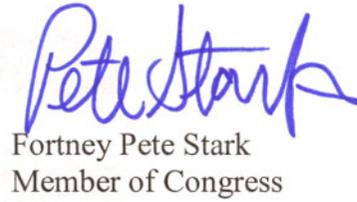
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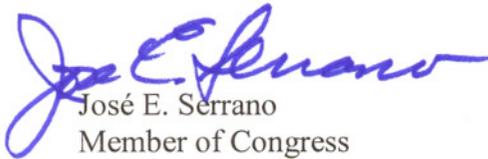
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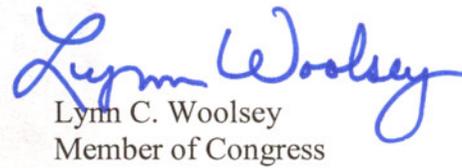
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