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July 12, 2022

The Honorable Lois Frankel
2305 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ken Buck
2455 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Frankel and Buck,

On behalf of [RALIANCE](#), a national partnership dedicated to ending sexual violence in one generation, and the 36 national, state, and local organizations signed below working in their communities every day to end sexual violence, we are writing to express our support for H.R. 8227, the SPEAK OUT Act, which would limit the enforceability of pre-dispute non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) in situations in which sexual assault and sexual harassment survivors wish to break their silence. The bill does not impact any NDAs as part of a settlement agreement.

We know sexual violence thrives in secrecy, and to end sexual violence we must bring sexual assault, abuse, and misconduct into the open and support survivors in seeking justice and healing. Accountability and responsiveness to issues of sexual harassment and misconduct are essential to efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence. The secretive nature of NDAs thwarts efforts to make systemic change and limits individual survivors' options. The SPEAK OUT Act will help our collective efforts to bring equity to the workplace and to ultimately end sexual violence.

We are grateful to you for introducing the SPEAK OUT Act and look forward to supporting your efforts to ensure this legislation becomes law.

Sincerely,

Terri Poore, MSW
Policy Director

National Organizations:

Alliance of Tribal Coalitions to End Violence
Esperanza United (Formerly Casa de Esperanza National Latin@ Network)
Futures Without Violence
Justice for Migrant Women
Legal Momentum, the Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Council of Jewish Women
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
SafeBAE
Tahirih Justice Center
The Army of Survivors
The National Domestic Violence Hotline
ValorUS

State/Local Organizations:

Arizona Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence
DC Rape Crisis Center
Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking
Jane Doe Inc. (MA Coalition Against SA/DV)
Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault
Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Missouri Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
(MOCADSV)
NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence
New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual
Violence
New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape

South Dakota Coalition Ending Domestic and Sexual Violence

Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services

Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault

YWCA Kauai