



November 28, 2022

Senator Tom Cotton  
Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cotton:

On behalf of the **Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ACASA)** and the **18** of programs, all Arkansas communities and survivors we represent, I am writing to urge you to quickly confirm the nomination of Rosemarie Hidalgo as Director of the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).

OVW has a pivotal role in ensuring the nation's response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking through essential grant programs that support local communities to address and prevent gender-based violence. **The ACASA** was established in 1998 and has since this time supported and trained thousands of victim service providers in Arkansas. The ACASA provides training and technical assistance to all service providers who work with victims of sexual violence. The ACASA provides education students of all ages about healthy relationships and even helps three and four-year-old children learn valuable information about themselves that will reduce risk factors and increase protective factors against violence in general. We have trained over 1000 service providers this year through our annual conference and other trainings our staff provides throughout the state. We could not do this work without the Office on Violence Against Women. The OVW provides funds that supports a lot of our work, beginning with the Grant to States and Territories for Coalitions. This foundational support allows us to apply for other funding opportunities to increase our reach to marginalized and rural communities. This year we began an Anti-Human Trafficking Program in Arkansas (the first of its kind). We have funded 12 sites that provide direct services to victims of human trafficking and also provide education to all counties in Arkansas regarding human trafficking. Our state has been increasing services over the past four years and much of this is with the support of OVW.

Additionally, OVW provides essential leadership across the federal government and beyond to prioritize addressing and ending these horrific crimes. The field needs a strong, confirmed leader at the helm of OVW to fulfill these goals.

Ms. Hidalgo is eminently qualified to lead OVW. She is a nationally recognized leader with over 25 years of experience in legislative policy development and implementation, advocacy, grant and program management, and training. Ms. Hidalgo strives to work in a bipartisan manner and is experienced in developing broad-based coalitions, nationally and globally, across sectors to advance policy advocacy and develop innovative strategies and programming. She is currently the Senior Advisor on Gender-Based Violence and a Special Assistant to the President. Previous positions include Senior Director of Policy at Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@



Network for Healthy Families and Communities (now called Esperanza United) and Deputy Director for Policy at the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women.

We respectfully urge you to move forward to confirm Ms. Hidalgo's appointment as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

*Monie Ballard*

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