



November 23, 2022

Senator Patrick Leahy
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

On behalf of the **Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence** and our fifteen member organizations, 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. As you know, survivors across our state are able to access life-saving supports thanks to the many OVW grants realized in our communities. Additionally, thanks to the OVW grants specific to our work, the Network is able to effectively collaborate across systems and issues to improve the lives of survivors and to create opportunities for change on individual and societal levels.

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. Ms. Hidalgo has visited Vermont on numerous occasions, most recently in her role supporting our grant to address the risk of harm that exists when firearms are present in violent homes. I personally have worked with Ms. Hidalgo and fully support her nomination.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Tronsgard-Scott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Tronsgard-Scott
Executive Director