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Dear Colleague,

Domestic violence is a serious public health problem that affects more than 30 million Americans. The White Ribbon Campaign is the largest effort in the world of people working to end violence against women, men, and children. The international campaign has participants in fifty-five countries and involves a general public education effort focused on preventing and ending domestic violence and sexual assault.

Wearing a white ribbon is a symbol of opposition to violence against women. Wearing a white ribbon is a personal pledge to never commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women and children. Wearing a white ribbon is a way of saying, "Men need to be part of the discussion, part of the solution."

On Thursday, March 31st, I invite you to join me in raising awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault by wearing a white ribbon. My office will be distributing ribbons on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. The white ribbons are provided by Vera House of Syracuse, New York.

For a number of years I have had the privilege of volunteering at Vera House, an organization dedicated to ending all domestic and sexual violence, assisting families in crisis, supporting those affected by domestic and sexual violence, empowering women, men, and children, and promoting a culture of equality and respect in relationships.

Wearing a ribbon illustrates your commitment to raising awareness as well as combating domestic violence in your own districts. Thank you in advance for joining me.

Sincerely,

Ann Marie Buerkle  
Member of Congress