September 17, 2018

Dear Senators,

We urge you to delay Judge Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination to the Supreme Court until a thorough investigation of Dr. Christine Blasey Ford’s allegations has taken place.

To hold a vote now would be an insult to women and girls, sending a powerful message that they don’t matter and will not be believed. Let’s instead set an example for our children that sexual violence should be taken seriously and emphatically denounced.

If the allegations of sexual assault are true, they speak to Brett Kavanaugh’s character and ability to determine right from wrong. Before giving Kavanaugh power to make decisions about women’s lives, their protection under our laws prohibiting sexual violence, and their physical autonomy, Congress has a responsibility to allow the American people to learn the truth.

In the age of #MeToo, the vitriol that Anita Hill endured cannot happen again, both in our national discourse and throughout any testimony that Dr. Ford chooses to provide. Over this past year, survivors across the country have come forward with harrowing stories of sexual assault and harassment. Their bravery and experiences cannot be in vain.

Dr. Ford did not want to go public with her story, knowing the hostility, retaliation, and disbelief she would face. We applaud her courage for risking it all. Now that Dr. Ford has taken the brave step to come forward, we must do all we can to treat her with decency and respect.

We urge the Senate to rise to the occasion, take these allegations with the seriousness and careful consideration they deserve, and allow a thorough investigation.

Sincerely,

Lois Frankel
Chair
Democratic Women’s Working Group

Brenda L. Lawrence
Vice Chair
Democratic Women’s Working Group

Jackie Speier
Policy and Communications Chair
Democratic Women’s Working Group

cc. U.S. Senators
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

Madeleine Z. Bordallo  
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress

Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress

cc. U.S. Senators
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress

Luis V. Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress

David E. Price  
Member of Congress

Mark Takano  
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Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress

Gwen S. Moore  
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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

cc. U.S. Senators
John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

Salud O. Carbajal  
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

cc. U.S. Senators
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Member of Congress

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Val Demings
Member of Congress

Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Dan Kildee
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

cc. U.S. Senators
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Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Rosa DeLauro
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Tulsi Gabbard
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Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

cc U.S. Senators
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

James R. Langevin
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Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres
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Karen Bass
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

cc. U.S. Senators
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Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress

Jacky Rosen  
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress

William Lacy Clay Jr.  
Member of Congress

Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress

cc. U.S. Senators