

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 10, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson:

We write today regarding a devastating amendment included in the surface transportation reauthorization bill, H.R.8870, the *BUILD America 250 Act*, that advanced through the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on May 22, 2026. While it is critical to pass a surface transportation reauthorization, an amendment that was offered by Representative Fong and adopted by the Committee undermines that possibility. The amendment inserted language that puts users of rideshare apps, in particular women, in danger. We urge you to remove this provision before H.R.8870 is brought to the House Floor.

The bill as amended sets the stage for corporations to be shielded from liability from passengers who allege sexual assault, are seriously injured, or are killed when using rideshare apps such as Uber and Lyft. As this Congress engages in a bipartisan effort to reform our own practices to keep women safe from sexual misconduct, it is unthinkable that we would create pathways to immunity to corporations if sexual assault, or worse occurs when using their services.

In addition, the amendment would likely be interpreted to preempt longstanding state liability laws so that a rideshare company cannot be held liable if a driver harms a passenger. This creates not only an extraordinarily high legal threshold for victims to pursue accountability, it discourages companies from taking necessary steps to keep passengers safe. While supporters claim the amendment would reduce transportation costs and curb frivolous litigation,<sup>1</sup> in practice it could hamstring the rights of survivors to hold companies accountable when harm occurs because of failures to implement reasonable safety measures, adequately vet drivers, monitor dangerous conduct, or respond appropriately to complaints.

Further, the amendment's retroactive language would shutter the courthouse door on survivors who were harmed under today's law but have not yet filed—applying its likely interpretation of

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<sup>1</sup> Vince Fong, "Build America 250 Act Passes Committee; Fong Celebrates Wins," press release, May 22, 2026, [Congressman Vince Fong Official Website](#)

immunity to past conduct and punishing the very victims whose trauma or fear has kept them from coming forward sooner.

Failures by rideshare companies to adequately adopt policies to protect passengers and drivers from sexual misconduct are well-documented and chilling. Since the beginning of 2026 alone, Uber has been found liable for two separate sexual assault cases involving drivers, including cases in Arizona and another in North Carolina.<sup>[2][3]</sup> Publicly reported safety data has also shown alarming rates of sexual assault and misconduct reports tied to rideshare platforms. These ongoing incidents demonstrate why Congress should be strengthening oversight, improving transparency, and encouraging stronger safety protocols, rather than clearing the path for unprecedented liability shields to multibillion-dollar corporations.

Survivors deserve the right to hold companies accountable when corporate failures contribute to preventable harm. Sexual assault and harassment are persistent issues in the United States,<sup>4</sup> and rideshare companies that market themselves as safe and reliable transportation options must protect passengers and drivers alike. According to sealed court records obtained by the *New York Times*, Uber received a report of sexual assault or sexual misconduct in the United States almost every eight minutes on average between 2017 and 2022.<sup>5</sup> Rideshare companies, who claim to provide a tool that enhances safety and convenience, must take this seriously. Every person deserves to arrive at their destination safely and to know that there is a meaningful path forward for justice when that does not happen.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with you to remove this provision and passing legislation that strengthens transportation safety and supports survivors of sexual assault.

Sincerely,

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2 Kate Conger and Erin Griffith, “Uber Ordered to Pay \$8.5 Million in Rape Verdict,” *The New York Times*, February 5, 2026, [The New York Times](#)

3 Mike Scarcella, “Uber Loses Another U.S. Driver Sex Assault Trial, Ordered to Pay \$5,000,” *Reuters*, April 20, 2026, [Reuters](#)

4 Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), “Facts and Statistics: The Scope of the Problem,” accessed May 27, 2026, [RAINN](#)

5 Emily Steel, “Uber’s Festering Sexual Assault Problem,” *The New York Times*, August 6, 2025, [The New York Times](#).



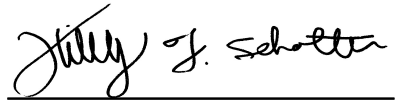
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Debbie Dingell  
Senate Liaison  
Democratic Women's Caucus



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Emilia Strong Sykes  
Vice Chair  
Democratic Women's Caucus



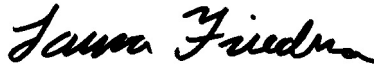
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Hillary J. Scholten  
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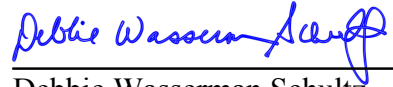
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Teresa Leger Fernández  
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Laura Friedman  
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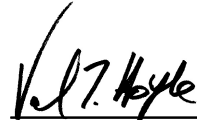
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Valerie P. Foushee  
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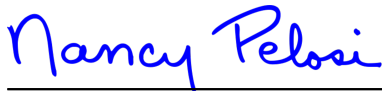
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Julia Brownley  
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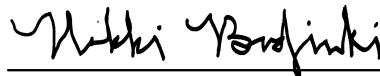
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Val Hoyle  
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Nancy Pelosi  
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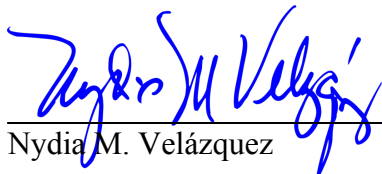
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Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



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Julie Johnson  
Equality Caucus Liaison  
Democratic Women's Caucus



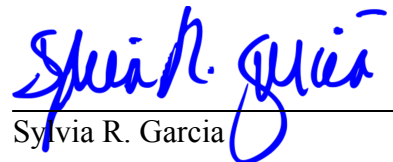
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Sylvia R. Garcia  
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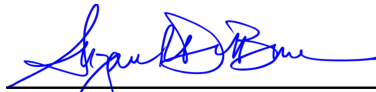
Andrea Salinas  
Congressional Hispanic  
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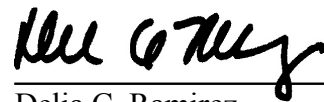
Lori Trahan  
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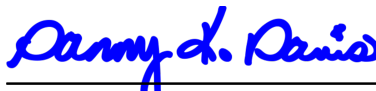
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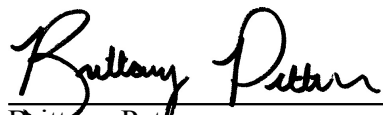
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Angie Craig  
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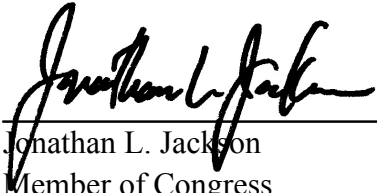
Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
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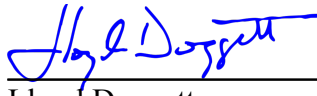
Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
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LaMonica McIver  
New Member Liaison  
Democratic Women's Caucus

Dave Min  
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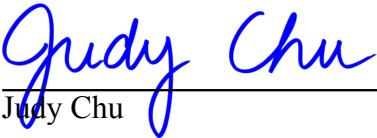
Jonathan L. Jackson  
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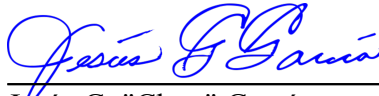
Lloyd Doggett  
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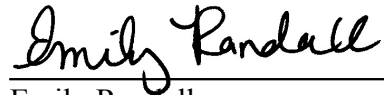
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Co-Chair & Liaison  
Reproductive Healthcare  
Task Force  
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
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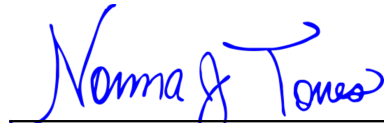
Emily Randall  
Whip  
Democratic Women's Caucus



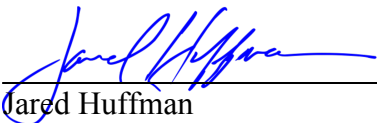
Shri Thanedar  
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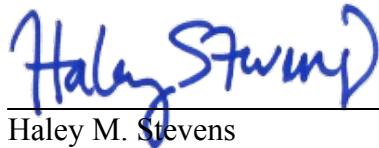
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Maxine Dexter, M.D.  
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Luz M. Rivas  
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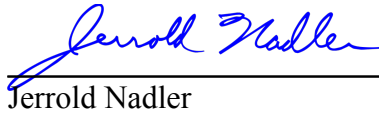
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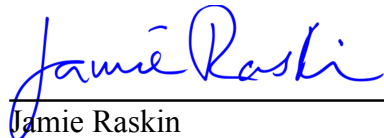
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Gabe Vasquez  
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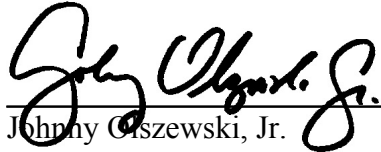
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Chris Deluzio  
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Johnny Oszewski, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



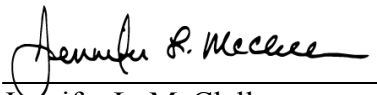
Becca Balint  
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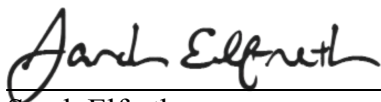
Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



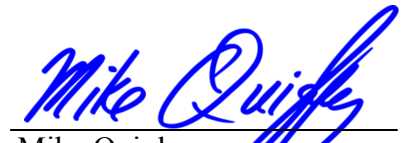
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Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth  
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Mike Quigley  
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Derek T. Tran  
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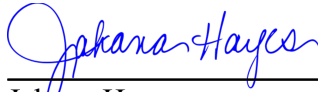
Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



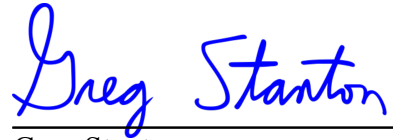
Kelly Morrison  
Co-Chair & Liaison  
Reproductive Healthcare Task  
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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



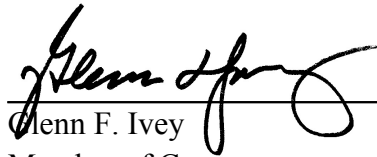
Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



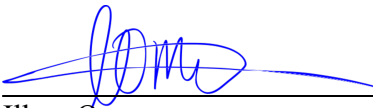
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



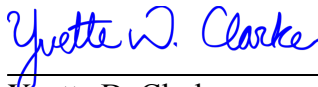
Glenn F. Ivey  
Member of Congress



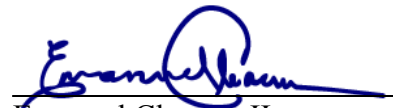
Jimmy Panetta  
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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



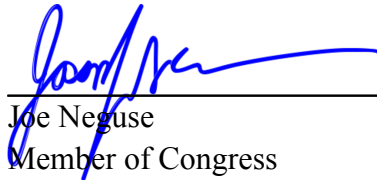
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Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



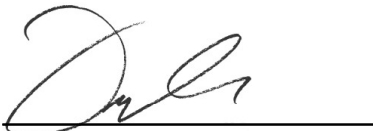
Janelle S. Bynum  
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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



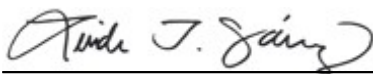
Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress



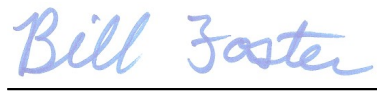
Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



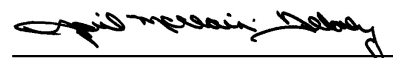
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Linda T. Sánchez  
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Bill Foster  
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April McClain Delaney  
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Task Force  
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Congressional Black Caucus  
Liaison  
Democratic Women's Caucus




Diana DeGette  
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Terri A. Sewell  
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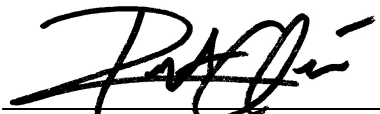
Maggie Goodlander  
Member of Congress



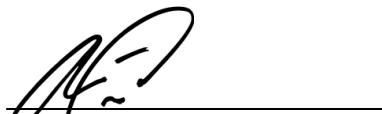
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Morgan McGarvey  
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia  
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André Carson  
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