You are welcome to use the following text to contact your member of Congress via e-mail, letter or using the information in a phone call or meeting. It is helpful, but not necessary, to include personal information about your experience with stalking as a victim, friend, or caregiver.

If you need additional assistance contacting your state legislature to promote strengthening the stalking laws in your state, please send an e-mail to info@unfollowme.com

I am writing in strong support of the Strengthening Protections for Domestic Violence and Stalking Survivors Act of 2023 (H.R. 905 / S. 321). As a supporter, I recognize this bill will help protect those vulnerable to crime.

However, the protections for victims in this act should be expanded to include language to make the National Crime Information Center – Protection Order File (NCIC-POF) mandatory for all jurisdictions and publicly available.

Millions of stalking victims are never heard because of ineffective laws and lack of law enforcement training.

An estimated 13.5 million people experience stalking per year[[1]](#footnote-1), yet only 16% will have a report filed by law enforcement[[2]](#footnote-2) resulting in 1.2% of perpetrators getting arrested with a 12% conviction rate[[3]](#footnote-3). Essentially, only 0.1% of stalking incidents result in a conviction. Even so, there exists a high recidivism rate of stalking perpetrators[[4]](#footnote-4).

The NCIC-POF is a registry of summary information on Protective Orders, accessible primarily by law enforcement and local judicial jurisdictions. Participation among jurisdictions is voluntary but should become mandatory in the interest of public safety.

To reduce domestic violence and, specifically, stalking, this registry should be made available to the public with a sufficient level of detail such that an individual can make an informed decision about potential intimate partners. Congress should consider the benefit to public safety of modeling the NCIC-POF after the National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW).

**Please support H.R. 905/S.321 *Strengthening Protections for Domestic Violence and Stalking Survivors Act of 2023* and expand it to include language to make the NCIC-POF mandatory for all jurisdictions and publicly available.**

1. Smith, S.G., Basile, K.C., & Kresnow, M. (2022). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): *2016/2017 Report on Stalking*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease control and Prevention. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Morgan, R.E., & Truman, J.L. (2022). *Stalking Victimization, 2019*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Baum, K., Catalano, S., & Rand, M. (2009). *Stalking Victimization in the United States*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Mohandie, K., Meloy, J.R., McGowan, M.G., & Williams, J. (2006). *The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers*. Journal of Forensic Sciences, 51(1): 147-155. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)