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Congress of the United States
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MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

October 31, 2023

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chairman
House Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Ranking Member
House Judiciary Committee

Chairman Jordan and Ranking Member Nadler,

I am writing on behalf of the families of 9/11 victims and 25 bipartisan cosponsors to express my firm support for the *Ensuring Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act* (EJVTA), a crucial piece of legislation that seeks to rectify inadvertent drafting oversights within the *Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act* (JASTA) of 2016. JASTA, which passed with unanimous consent from both the House and Senate, was a significant stride toward delivering justice for the victims and families affected by the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

The EJVTA makes three essential technical amendments to JASTA to ensure that the act functions as initially intended by Congress. These corrections have become imperative due to the opportunistic exploitation of these oversights by foreign state defendants and have obstructed justice for the September 11 victims' community.

Specifically, this bill:

- Explicitly authorizes injured plaintiffs to take legal action against foreign states implicated in supporting terrorism, thereby addressing a previously exploited loophole and ensuring that foreign states can be held accountable for aiding and abetting such acts.
- Refines the execution-of-judgment procedure, aligning JASTA with the established judgment execution protocols, ensuring that victims can seamlessly collect on judgments granted to them.
- Clarifies that all U.S. citizens, inclusive of businesses and organizations, have the right to seek compensation under the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) as amended by JASTA. This ensures equitable rights for entities like LLCs, placing them on equal footing with sole proprietorships in their pursuit of justice.

In conclusion, the EJVTA is a necessary legislative correction that serves to honor the original intent of JASTA and reinforces our nation's commitment to combating terrorism and upholding justice for victims. I urge the Judiciary Committee to act swiftly in favor of this legislation, thereby closing the loopholes and ensuring that justice is served without hindrance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Van Drew', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress