

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Vanessa Lowery Brown

DATE: February 25, 2013

SUBJECT: Resolution Urging Congress to Petition the FCC to Establish a Ratings System Regarding Films and Video Games Depicting the Perpetration of Violence against Women and Children

In the near future, I intend to introduce legislation urging the United States Congress to petition the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to establish a ratings system designed to specifically classify the degree of violence perpetrated against women and children in films and video games.

In recent years, the prevalence of graphic violence and the exploitation of women and children depicted in films and video games has grown exponentially. In an effort to reverse this trend, the creation of a ratings system for video games and films, similar to that already established by the Motion Picture Association of America for rating films, would be a positive step towards raising awareness of gender-based discrimination in today's video game and film industry. In addition, such a ratings system would enable parents to better protect their children from exposure to the kind of graphic violence and content found in films and video games that has been proven to detrimentally affect a child's psyche and overall development.

Sadly, society by and large has become so accustomed to the portrayal of such graphic and odious behavior, that it has effectively desensitized the very foundation of our sensibilities. In an effort to combat the perpetuation of such a depraved mindset, I urge all of my colleagues to support me in co-sponsoring this important and common-sense measure.

If you should have any questions or concerns regarding this legislation, please contact Frances Harris in my office at (717) 772-6955 or FHarris@pahouse.net .