

For Immediate Release

Our Statement Regarding the Creation of VOICE

[March 2, 2017 – Washington, DC] – The National Center for Victims of Crime is the nation's leading resource and advocacy organization for crime victims and those who serve them. We support all victims of crime and their right to be heard and to pursue justice. While it is encouraging that the current administration is discussing victims' rights, the creation of a Victims of Immigration Crime Enforcement office (VOICE) is a poor use of scarce resources for crime victims and may actually block victims from exercising their rights.

Instead of creating the kind of bureaucracy the President has vowed to eliminate, fully funding existing offices within the Department of Justice including the Office for Victims of Crime and the Office on Violence Against Women, both with proven records of helping all victims, is a much better use of federal dollars.

If a principal charge of VOICE is to deport criminals, officials should understand that deportation proceedings will interfere with victims' interests to hold their offenders accountable by way of trial, punishment, and the payment of restitution. There needs to be a clearer understanding of how to better serve victims when the offenders stand a chance for deportation.

Existing research demonstrates that immigrants commit less crime than persons born in the United States. In a time when the nation's leaders are looking to reduce government, we should use research and data to keep offices with proven capacity to deliver services to our nation's people and resist the temptation to create an additional agency whose only benefit is novelty.

The [National Center for Victims of Crime](#), established in 1985, is the nation's leading resource and advocacy organization for crime victims and those who serve them. For more than 25 years, the National Center has led this nation's struggle to provide crime victims with the rights, protections, and services they need to rebuild their lives.