

DEADLINE: March 30, 2017

SUPPORT VICTIMS OF CRIME WITHOUT SPENDING TAX DOLLARS

Help Ensure Increased Outputs from the Crime Victims Fund

Dear Colleague:

Please join us in signing the letter below to Appropriations Committee Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Lowey, Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Chairman Culberson, and Ranking Member Serrano to encourage the House Appropriations CJS Subcommittee to set the Crime Victims Fund cap in FY 2018 to at least \$2.737 billion. This funding level, which is the same as the Committee's FY 2017 cap, will ensure continued enhanced services to victims of crime throughout the country.

Since 1984, the Victims of Crime Act has provided federal grants to provide essential, often life-saving services for crime victims. The Crime Victims Fund is **not financed by taxpayer dollars** but by fines, forfeitures, and other penalties paid by federal criminal offenders. By statute, the Fund is dedicated solely to supporting victim services. Because these non-tax dollars have already been collected and deposited into the Fund, **raising the cap does not add to the national deficit or debt.**

According to the Department of Justice, during FY 2016, state VOCA victim assistance grants provided vital, direct assistance that supports nearly 7,000 public and community-based agencies nationwide in providing services to almost eight million victims of assault, robbery, gang violence, intoxicated drivers, fraud, elder abuse, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, sexual assault, stalking, and many other crimes. Additionally, VOCA supports victim assistance for those involved in the federal criminal justice system, including survivors of terrorist acts. VOCA also helps victims with financial assistance for medical care, mental health counseling, lost wages, and funeral and burial costs through VOCA victim compensation grants.

In addition to the request that the Crime Victims Fund cap for Fiscal Year 2018 be set at least at the same \$2.737 billion which the subcommittee proposed for Fiscal Year 2017, without any transfers to programs not authorized under the VOCA statute, the letter asks the subcommittee to direct the Department of Justice to make recommendations as to how best to provide the resources to address the victim assistance needs of American Indian crime victims.

If you would like to join us in signing the below letter or if you have any questions, please contact Kristina Solberg in Rep. Jim Costa's office at kristina.solberg@mail.house.gov or 5-3341 or Kristina Thompson in Rep. Ted Poe's office at kristina.thompson@mail.house.gov or 5-6565. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

JIM COSTA

Member of Congress

TED POE

Member of Congress