

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 18, 2017

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Ranking Member Shaheen:

Thank you for your commitment to supporting resources for crime victims across our country. As you consider the Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, we respectfully request that you ensure that outlays from the Crime Victims Fund be as high as possible to fund core programs under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) to address the needs of crime victims.

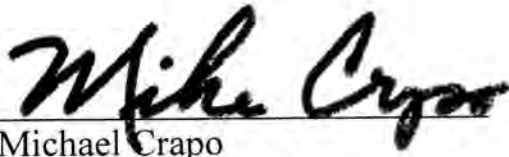
The Crime Victims Fund provides critical resources at the national level to victims in the aftermath of a crime. According to the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, the Fund helped 4 million victims of all types with support services and reimbursements to restore their lives.

The Fund is comprised of dollars collected from offenders convicted of federal crimes. In an attempt to ensure stable funding for VOCA programs, Congress limited the amount of Fund deposits obligated each year starting in FY 2000. However, the Fund has grown considerably since then and the Fund's balance at the beginning of FY 2017 was \$10.5 billion. Given the great unmet needs of victims of crime at a time when the Fund's balance is considerable, we believe it is both important and fiscally responsible to release additional resources. We commend the Committee for increasing the outlays from the Fund in FY 2015 and FY 2016 to address the growing needs for victim compensation and assistance.

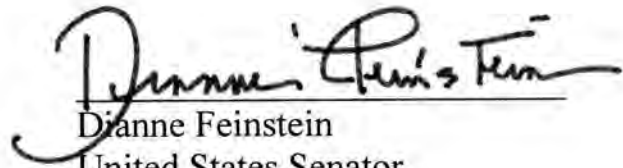
We also urge the Subcommittee to boost outlays from the Fund sufficient to provide for an appropriate funding stream for Tribes. Individuals on tribal lands experience high rates of domestic and sexual violence and resources from the Fund are critical in addressing tribal victims' needs.

Thank you for your leadership in this critical area and for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



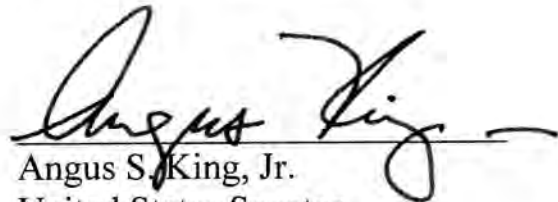
Michael Crapo
United States Senator



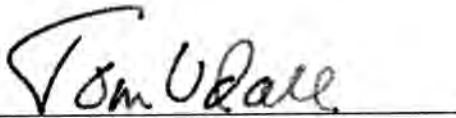
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



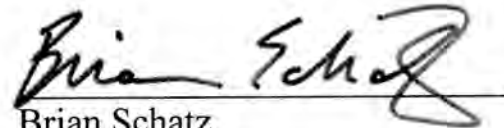
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Senator



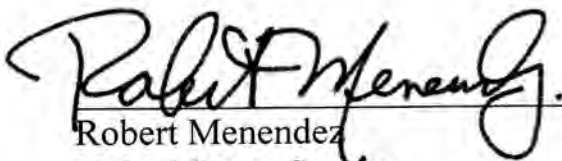
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



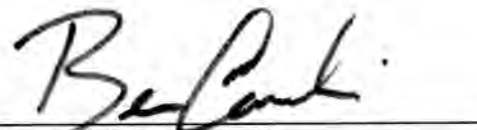
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



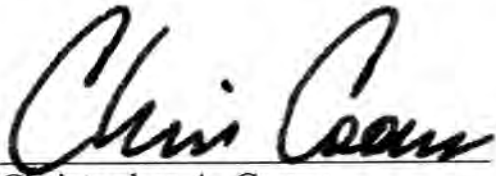
Al Franken
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



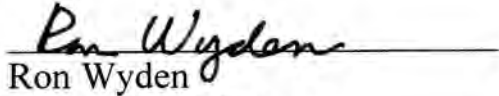
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



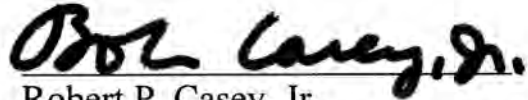
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



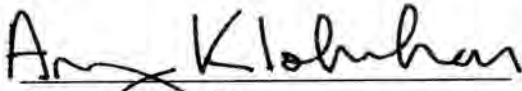
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



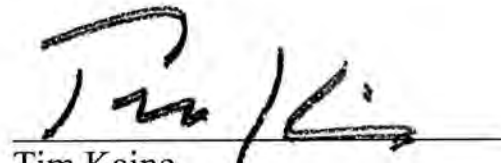
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



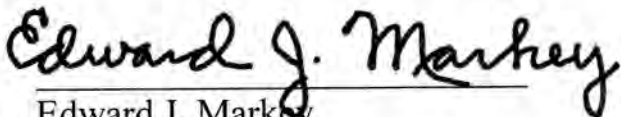
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



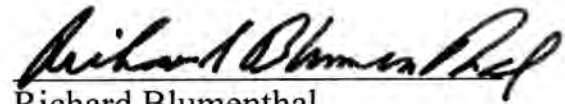
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



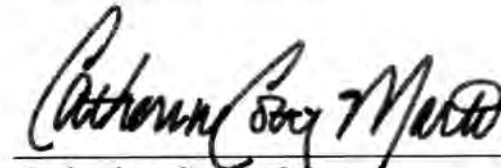
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator




Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator




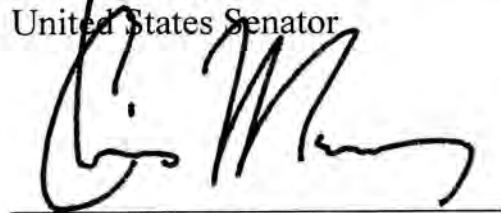
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator





Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator


Bernard Sanders
United States Senator


Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator


Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator


Gary C. Peters
United States Senator


Jon Tester
United States Senator


Christopher Van Hollen
United States Senator


Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations