

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 30, 2024

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
H-310, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Cartwright:

We greatly appreciate your efforts to help crime victims by supporting the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) and Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) programs. We write to request that the Crime Victims Fund for Fiscal Year 2025 be appropriated to the highest amount possible, which will sustain current levels of victim assistance services.

As you know, 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 from federal prosecutions and non-prosecution and deferred prosecution agreements. 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, obligations from the Fund do not add to the national deficit or debt.

According to the Department of Justice, during FY2017, state VOCA victim assistance grants provided vital, direct assistance that supports 9,422 victim service projects operated by 6,867 public and community-based agencies nationwide. This included first-time services to more than 5 million crime victims, including victims of assault, murder, 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, victims and survivors of mass violence and terrorist acts, and helps victims with financial assistance for medical care, mental health counseling, lost wages, and funeral and burial costs through VOCA victim compensation grants.

Further, we recognize that the rate of violent victimization is higher for American Indians than any other racial group. In FY2019-FY2024, Congress set aside five percent for a Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside (TVSSA) program, and we request a continuation of funding for tribes. We ask the Subcommittee to direct the Department of Justice to consult with tribal governments about how these funds should be allocated and to submit a report to Congress detailing how CVF funds will be used in long-term planning and the development of effective crime victim services infrastructure in tribal communities.

We know Appropriators are aware of the crisis facing the Crime Victims Fund due to shrinking deposits into the fund. Since FY2017, deposits to the CVF have declined considerably and as a

result, state programs have been experiencing massive cuts in victim services funding. From FY23 to FY24, VOCA funds were reduced by over \$600 million, a 30 percent cut, compounding cuts from FYs 21 and 22. A 30 percent cut in VOCA funds will force victim service programs to reduce or eliminate services, lay off staff, and in some cases close their doors. As a result, countless victims in crisis will not be able to find help.

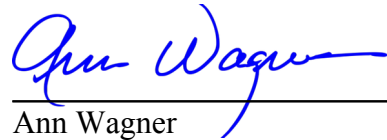
It is imperative that Congress restore VOCA programs to at least their FY23 levels in FY25 and ensure that CVF funds go to VOCA programs. If the CVF cannot sustain this level of funding, Congress must find other ways to maintain steady funding for this vital program. For FY25 and beyond, Congress should support and advance creative solutions—such as directing False Claims Act dollars to the CVF—to address the long-term stability of the fund and provide a consistent \$2 billion VOCA funding annually.

Again, we express our great appreciation to the subcommittee for its leadership and ongoing support for important services to crime victims throughout our nation. Your consideration of our request will help ensure the long-term continuity of essential crime victim assistance services.

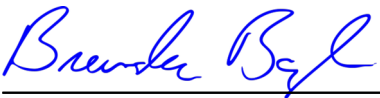
Sincerely,



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



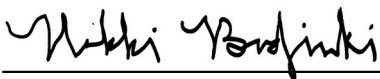
Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



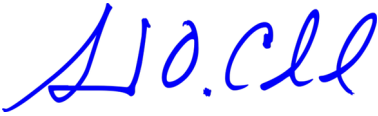
Dina Titus
Member of Congress




Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



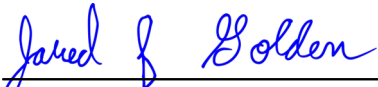
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



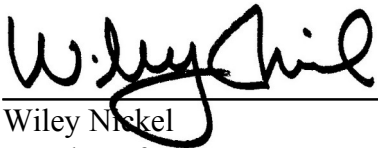
Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress



Jared Golden
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Wiley Nickel
Member of Congress



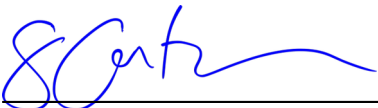
Daniel T. Kildee
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Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



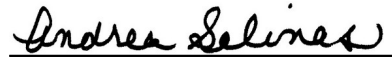
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho
Sablan
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Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress



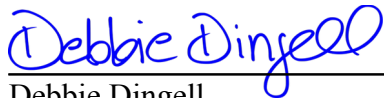
Andrea Salinas
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Joe Neguse
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Debbie Dingell
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Brian Fitzpatrick
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Dan Goldman
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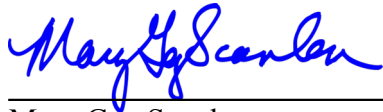
Gwen S. Moore
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Deborah K. Ross
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Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
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Bill Foster
Member of Congress



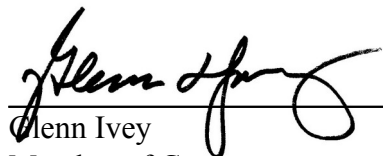
Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



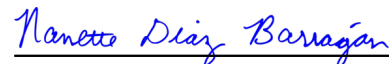
Jim Tokuda
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Gabe Amo
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Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress



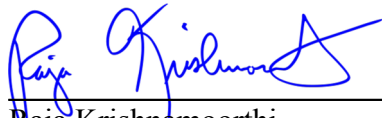
Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress



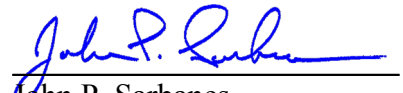
Julia Brownley
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Danny K. Davis
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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John P. Sarbanes
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Mike Levin
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Diana DeGette
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.
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Chris Pappas
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Garret Graves
Member of Congress



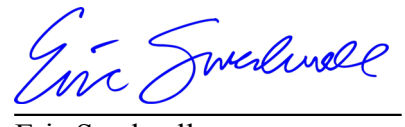
Frank Pallone, Jr.
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Jimmy Panetta
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Jasmine Crockett
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Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



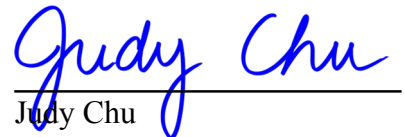
Jennifer González-Colón
Member of Congress




Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress




David Scott
Member of Congress




Judy Chu
Member of Congress




Anthony D'Esposito
Member of Congress



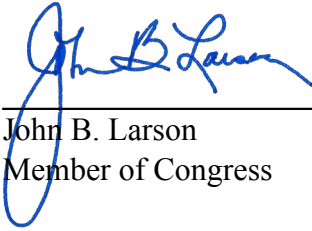
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



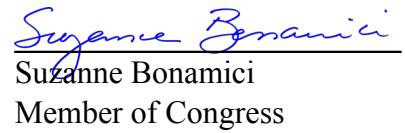
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



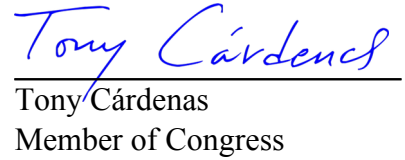
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



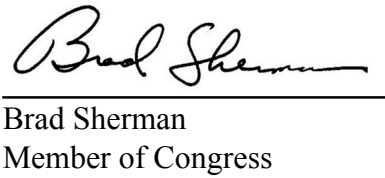
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



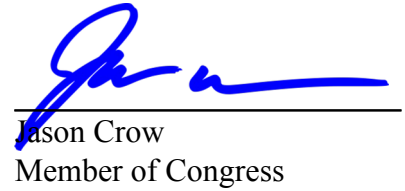
Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



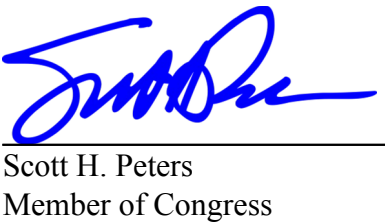
Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



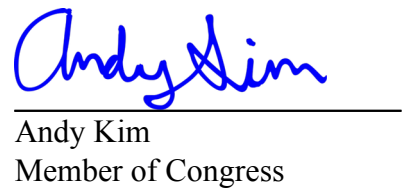
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



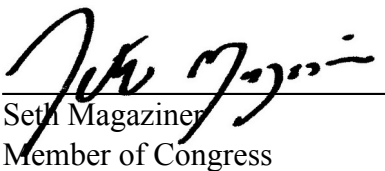
Jason Crow
Member of Congress



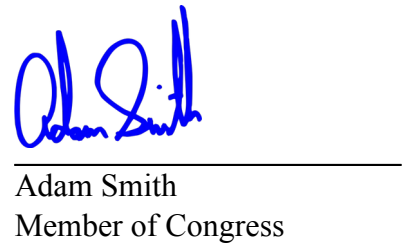
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



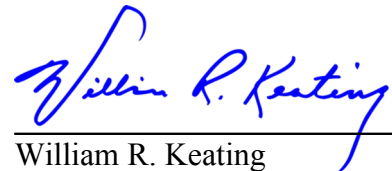
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



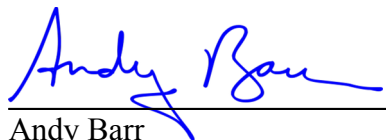
Dwight Evans
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Rick Larsen
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William R. Keating
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Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin
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