

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 19, 2012

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science and Related Agencies  
H-309, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Fattah:

As you begin work on the Commerce, Justice and Science appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2013, we respectfully request that you raise the cap on spending from the Crime Victims Fund. A growing need for these funds nationwide, coupled with a growing balance in the Fund, compels us to request a 2013 VOCA cap of at least \$1 billion.

Since 1984, the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) 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.

Every year, state VOCA victim assistance grants provide vital direct assistance that supports more than 4,000 agencies nationwide in providing services to an average of 3.7 million victims of assault, robbery, gang violence, intoxicated drivers, fraud, elder abuse, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, sexual assault, stalking, survivors of homicide and many others. 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.

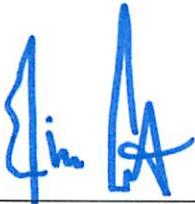
We know that local victim assistance agencies are in desperate need for additional funds. Office for Victims of Crime statistics show that 507,227 fewer crime victims received VOCA-funded services in 2010 than were able to in 2007. This included 91,270 fewer domestic violence victims, 30,878 fewer adult victims of sexual assault and 22,103 fewer child abuse victims. According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence's (NNEDV) 2010 census, 9,541 requests for services on just one day went unmet because of inadequate funding. NNEDV reports that more than 2,000 staff positions in domestic violence programs were lost. A 2010 survey by the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence shows that 25 percent of rape crisis centers have waiting lists, and funding and staff cuts resulted in a 50 percent reduction in advocacy services.

With the increased need for funding, now is the time to raise the cap on the Crime Victims Fund and release additional money for the purpose for which it was collected.

In addition, we strongly urge the Committee to restore the separate line item for management and administrative costs. In the 2012 appropriations, the Department of Justice was directed to use grant funds for its management and administrative costs, replacing a separate line item for those costs. Because of the way this additional cost will be applied, 2012 grants for state VOCA victim assistance grants are expected to be cut by approximately \$50 million (12.5 percent) from 2011. This means that even with a level VOCA cap these critical programs will be funded in 2012 at a lower level than they were in 2006.

For these reasons, we strongly urge the Committee to raise the 2013 VOCA cap to \$1 billion to support core VOCA assistance programs without any new earmarks or set-asides of the Fund. Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



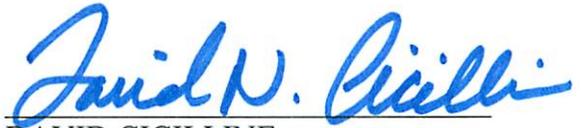
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