

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 25, 2015

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Culberson
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
H-309, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Culberson, and Ranking Member Fattah:

We greatly appreciate your efforts to help crime victims by supporting the Crime Victims Fund and Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) programs. We are enormously grateful for the support of the Appropriations Committee and the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2015 by increasing the cap on the Crime Victims Fund from \$745 million for FY 14 to \$2.361 billion for FY 15. This represents an historic investment in meeting the crucial needs of victims for all types of crimes. We strongly request that the Committee sustain this commitment by setting the Crime Victims Fund cap for 2016 at \$2.625 billion.

The amount we are requesting is equal to the average of the three previous year's deposits into the Crime Victims Fund and is thus a reasonable funding level. Deposits into the Fund have continued at an unprecedented rate and in FY 15 will, we expect, again exceed the annual cap, even at the amount we are requesting. This means the Fund will continue to be a viable and sustainable source to support VOCA-authorized crime victim 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 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 thousands of public and community-based agencies nationwide in providing services to more than 3.5 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.

We again express our great appreciation to the Committee 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 continuation of essential crime victim assistance services.

Sincerely,



JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



KAREN BASS
Member of Congress



EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress



MADELEINE BORDALLO
Member of Congress



BRENDAN F. BOYLE
Member of Congress



ROBERT A. BRADY
Member of Congress



CORRINE BROWN
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JULIA BROWNLEY
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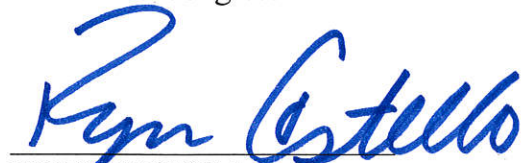
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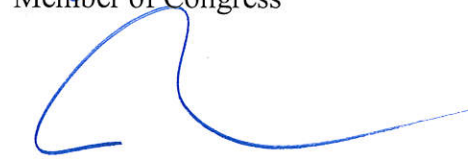

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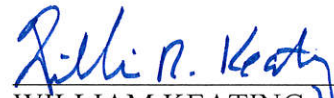

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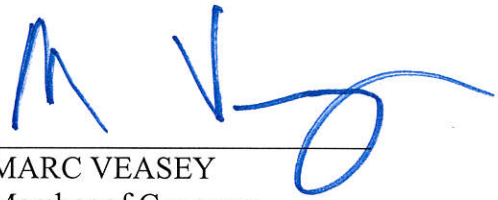

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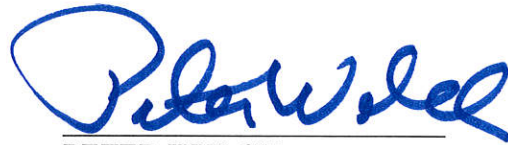
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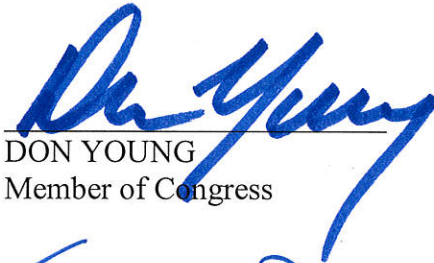
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