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May 8, 2012

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and  
Science  
Committee on Appropriations, S 12  
The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and  
Science  
Committee on Appropriations, S 12  
The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and  
Science  
Committee on Appropriations, H 309  
The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chaka Fattah  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and  
Science  
Committee on Appropriations, H 309  
The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

*Via fax*

Re: Increasing the Crime Victims Fund Cap

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski, Chairman Wolf, Senator Hutchison and  
Representative Fattah:

We, the undersigned Attorneys General, write to express our support for increasing the cap on the Crime Victims Fund. The Crime Victims Fund was created as part of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA) and is funded entirely through collections from criminal fines, special assessments and other penalties paid by federal criminal offenders. Since placing a spending cap on annual Fund obligations, Congress has repeatedly promised to retain all amounts in the Fund exclusively to support services for victims of crime. And because these non-taxpayer revenues have already been collected and deposited into the Fund, raising the annual cap does not add to the national deficit or debt.

The Crime Victims Fund supports Federal grants that provide essential services for crime victims. Not only are crime victims entitled to these services, but their cooperation is indispensable to the effectiveness of the criminal justice system. 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 and 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

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for medical care, mental health counseling, lost wages, and funeral and burial costs.

Notwithstanding unprecedented deposits into the Fund (the Office of Management and Budget projects a FY 2012 closing balance of \$7.4 billion), state VOCA assistance in 2012 will actually be cut, in large part due to the imposition of new federal management and administrative costs to these funds . This means these critical programs will be funded in 2012 at a lower level than they were in 2006 (this is a 16 percent reduction in real dollars).

We also 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 they were able to in 2007, including 91,270 fewer domestic violence victims, 30,878 fewer adult victims of sexual assault, 22,103 fewer child abuse victims, 38,244 fewer victims of elder abuse, 39,388 fewer adults molested as children victims, 29,102 fewer victims of drunk driving, and 36,452 fewer survivors of homicide victims.

According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence's 2010 census, 9,541 requests for services on just one day went unmet because of inadequate funding. Although the number of adults and children served by domestic violence programs increased by 22 percent since 2006, the number of unmet requests increased by 85 percent showing that the need for services is greatly outpacing the capacity to provide those services.

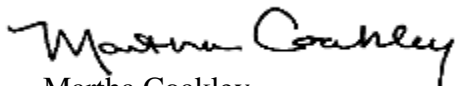
NNEDV also reports that more than 2,000 staff position in domestic violence programs positions were lost. A 2010 survey by the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence shows that 25 percent of rape crisis centers have waiting lists and funding and staff cuts resulted in a 50 percent reduction in advocacy services.

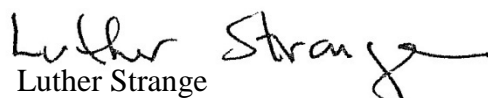
With the demonstrated need for increased funding and more than enough money in the Fund, now is the time to raise the cap on the Crime Victims Fund and release additional money for the purpose for which Congress intended.

We respectfully request a 2013 VOCA cap of at least \$1 billion to support core VOCA-authorized programs without any new earmarks, set asides or uses of the Fund.

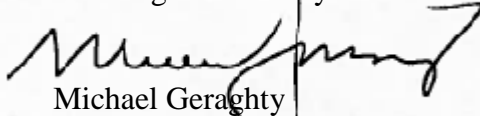
Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this request. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Attorney Martha Coakley, at (617) 727-2200, or Attorney General Robert McKenna, at (360) 664-8565.

Respectfully,

  
Martha Coakley  
Massachusetts Attorney General

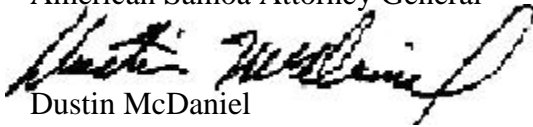
  
Luther Strange  
Alabama Attorney General

  
Rob McKenna  
Washington Attorney General

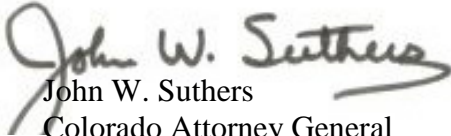
  
Michael Geraghty  
Alaska Attorney General



Arthur Ripley Jr.  
American Samoa Attorney General



Dustin McDaniel  
Arkansas Attorney General



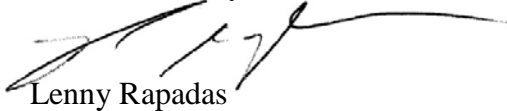
John W. Suthers  
Colorado Attorney General



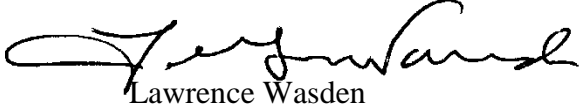
Joseph R. "Beau" Biden III  
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Lenny Rapadas  
Guam Attorney General



Lawrence Wasden  
Idaho Attorney General



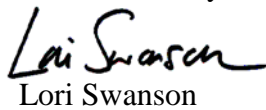
Greg Zoeller  
Indiana Attorney General



Derek Schmidt  
Kansas Attorney General



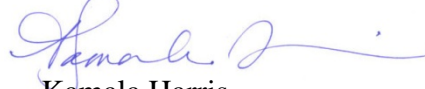
William J. Schneider  
Maine Attorney General



Lori Swanson  
Minnesota Attorney General



Tom Horne  
Arizona Attorney General



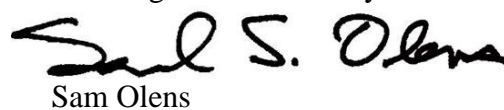
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George Jepsen  
Connecticut Attorney General



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Sam Olens  
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David Louie  
Hawaii Attorney General



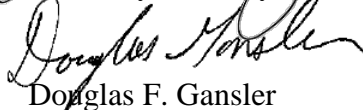
Lisa Madigan  
Illinois Attorney General



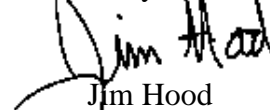
Tom Miller  
Iowa Attorney General



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Maryland Attorney General



Jim Hood  
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Chris Koster  
Missouri Attorney General

Catherine Cortez Masto  
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New Mexico Attorney General

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Scott Pruitt  
Oklahoma Attorney General

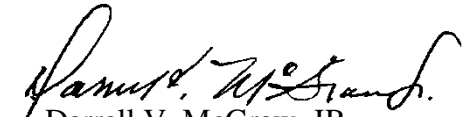
Linda L. Kelly  
Pennsylvania Attorney General

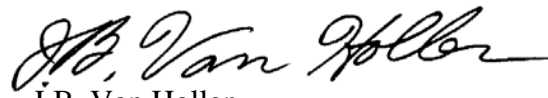
Alan Wilson  
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