

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 12, 2024

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Chairperson
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies

Dear Chairman Shaheen and Ranking Member Moran:

We respectfully urge you to consider amending section 510 of the FY24 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill to the highest possible obligation limit to help provide resources to crime victims.

Congress established the Crime Victims Fund in 1984 to support crime survivors with costs associated with medical care, mental health counseling, lost wages, courtroom advocacy, temporary housing, and much more. The CVF is unique as a non-taxpayer source of victim services funding derived from criminal penalties. However, over the past several years, deposits and the balance of the CVF have steadily decreased. The passage of the VOCA Fix Act that added funds derived from settlements and non-prosecution agreements is improving the health of the Crime Victims Fund. More recently, Congress suspended the intragovernmental transfer from the CVF to fund the Office on Violence Against Women. Despite these Congressional efforts to shore up the CVF, data published by the Office for Victims of Crime show the balance of the CVF remains historically low.

However, given recent deposits into the CVF and deposits coming soon that we believe will be able to compensate for an increased obligation limit, we encourage the committee to consider amending section 510 of the FY24 CJS appropriations bill to the highest possible obligation limit to help address the lower limit set for FY24.

Thank you for your past support of these programs and related resources for victims of crime. We encourage you to continue to do all that you can to fund services to victims and survivors.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator