

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Shalanda D. Young
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20503

Dear Director Young:

As you develop the President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2025, we write to express our continued support for bridge funding to bolster Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants. These grants have provided vital services to survivors of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, gun violence, human trafficking, drunk driving, and other crimes.

The Victims of Crime Act is the largest source of federal, non-taxpayer, grant funding for victim service organizations. It also matches 75% of eligible state victim compensation funding. VOCA grants are funded by monetary penalties associated with federal criminal convictions and deferred- and non-prosecution agreements. These penalties are deposited into the Crime Victims Fund (CVF), and appropriators decide how much to release from the CVF every year. These deposits fluctuate based on the cases the Department of Justice successfully prosecutes and settles. After years of historically low deposits, the CVF has been depleted.¹

The Crime Victims Fund supports a wide range of critical services for crime victims including counseling, emergency shelters, and victims' advocates across the country. The proposed \$1.2 billion in President Biden's FY2024 budget would amount to a 41% cut to victim service grants going out to the states. Many programs are seeing even deeper cuts, as state administrators keep money in reserve in case of further cuts in future years. These cuts would leave survivors without the assistance they need to navigate the aftermath of a crime.²

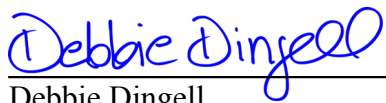
Without this funding, millions of victims, including survivors of domestic violence, will be left without access to safety, to justice, and to healing. As you develop your FY2025 Budget Request, we write to respectfully urge you to not only support bridge funding that avoids short-term funding cuts for these critical services, but also work together with Congress to investigate these continued shortfalls and seek long-term solutions that provide stability for victim services organizations.

¹ Jewish Women International. "The VOCA Bridge"

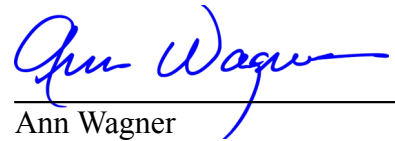
² Durkin, Erin . "Domestic-violence, Sexual-assault Services Could Face Cuts." National Journal, January 23, 2024. <https://www.nationaljournal.com/s/723973/domestic-violence-sexual-assault-services-could-face-cuts/?unlock=AD754D1BXM7WR60>.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request. We appreciate the Biden Administration's commitment to supporting survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse, and we stand ready to work alongside you to improve victim services across the nation.

Sincerely,



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



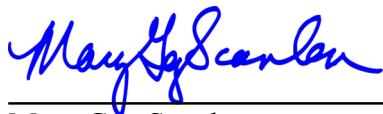
Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



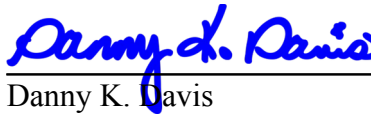
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



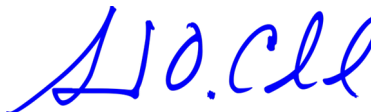
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



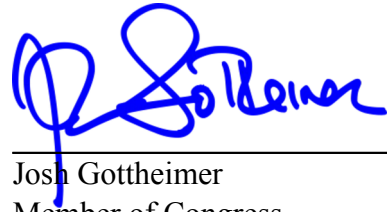
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



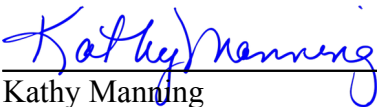
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



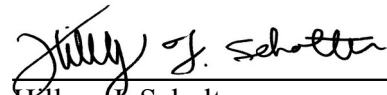
Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



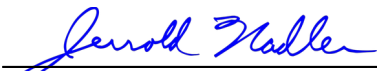
Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



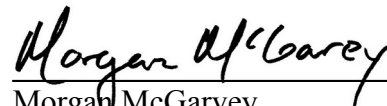
Kathy Manning
Member of Congress



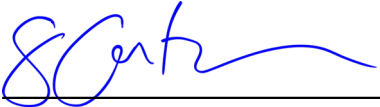
Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



Ferrol Nadler
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Jeff Jackson
Member of Congress



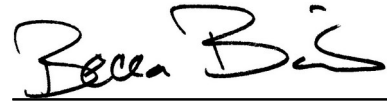
Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



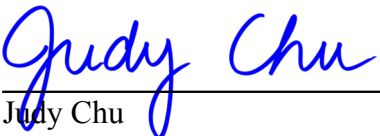
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Anthony D'Esposito
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



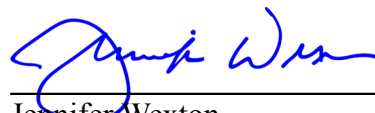
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress