

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL
750 FIRST STREET NE SUITE 1100
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002
(202) 326-6259
(202) 349-1922
<http://www.naag.org>

LYNNE M. ROSS
Executive Director

April 12, 2005

PRESIDENT
WILLIAM H. SORRELL
Attorney General of Vermont

PRESIDENT-ELECT
STEPHEN CARTER
Attorney General of Indiana

VICE PRESIDENT
THURBERT BAKER
Attorney General of Georgia

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
BILL LOCKYER
Attorney General of California

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bill Frist
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressional Leaders:

We, the undersigned Attorneys General, write to express our concern about the drastic cuts to the Crime Victims Fund proposed by the Administration in its budget for FY 2006.

The Crime Victims Fund was created as part of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA) and is funded entirely through collections from federal criminal fines, forfeitures and special assessments. These funds, with no additional amounts provided by taxpayer revenues, support the many VOCA programs that offer financial compensation and direct assistance services to victims of all types of crimes. Presently, some 4,400 local programs depend on VOCA assistance grants to provide necessary services to nearly 4 million victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, drunk driving, elder abuse and robberies, as well as families of homicide victims and other victims of crime.

The Administration's proposal for the FY 2006 budget to remove \$1.267 billion from the Crime Victims Fund would have a devastating impact on our ability to support victims of crime. VOCA is the only federal grant program that supports direct assistance services to victims of every description. VOCA also funds victim services for those involved in the federal criminal justice system and supplements state funds that provide financial compensation to victims of crime. While the Administration's proposal includes VOCA funding of \$650 million for FY 2006, it seeks to remove all other amounts remaining in the fund, as well as any amounts deposited during FY 2006. The Fund would thus begin FY 2007 with a zero balance. Beginning FY 2007 with nothing in the Fund means that there will be no money readily

available for state victim assistance and crime victim compensation grants or to pay federal personnel providing victim services.

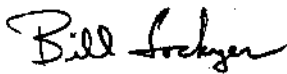
This approach is wholly inconsistent with the precise language of the statute which states that "... all sums deposited in the Fund in any fiscal year that are not made available for obligation by Congress in the subsequent fiscal year shall remain in the Fund for obligation in future fiscal years, without fiscal year limitation." 42 U.S.C. §10601(c). It also undermines the commitment, made in recent years when a cap was introduced on annual grants, "to ensure that a stable level of funding will remain available for these programs in future years." (Public Law 106-113, Conf. Report 106-479, Title VI, General Provisions, Sec. 620). Victims are challenged enough by their experiences. It would be an injustice to make the future of VOCA funding uncertain.

The proposed cut could not come at a worse time for states and territories. Significant budget problems still face state and territorial legislatures. VOCA funds enable states and community-based organizations to pay victim compensation and to offer free counseling, advocacy and a range of other specialized services for crime victims at a time when victims should not be further burdened by having to pay for such services themselves, or worse, forced to go without them. In many cases, the VOCA-funded services are lifesaving measures. Limiting the ability to offer these services will have devastating consequences.

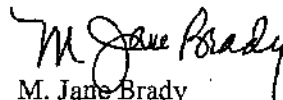
We ask that you vote to restore the funds and assure the future availability of these monies to the Crime Victims Fund.

Thank you.

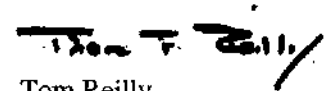
Sincerely,



Bill Lockyer
Attorney General of California



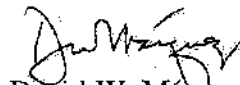
M. Jane Brady
Attorney General of Delaware



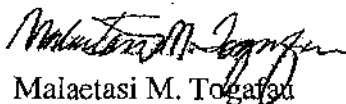
Tom Reilly
Attorney General of
Massachusetts



Troy King
Attorney General of Alabama



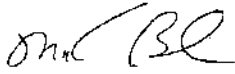
David W. Marquez
Attorney General of Alaska

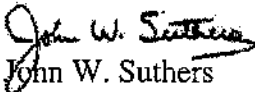



Malaetasi M. Togafua
Attorney General of American Samoa




Terry Goddard
Attorney General of Arizona

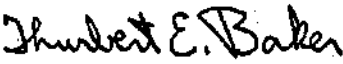

Mike Beebe
Attorney General of Arkansas



John W. Suthers
Attorney General of Colorado

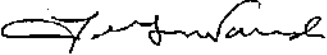

Richard Blumenthal
Attorney General of Connecticut



Robert J. Spagnoletti
Attorney General of District of Columbia



Charlie Crist
Attorney General of Florida

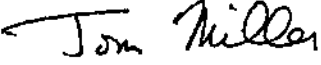

Thurbert E. Baker
Attorney General of Georgia

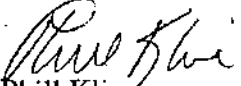

Mark J. Bennett
Attorney General of Hawaii

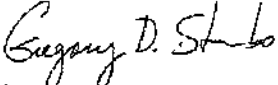

Lawrence Wasden
Attorney General of Idaho

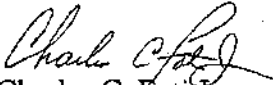

Lisa Madigan
Attorney General of Illinois

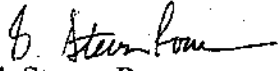

Stephen Carter
Attorney General of Indiana



Tom Miller
Attorney General of Iowa



Phill Kline
Attorney General of Kansas



Gregory D. Stumbo
Attorney General of Kentucky

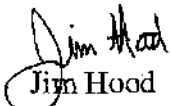

Charles C. Foti Jr.
Attorney General of Louisiana

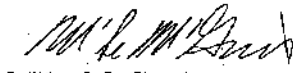

G. Steven Rowe
Attorney General of Maine



Joseph Curran Jr.
Attorney General of Maryland



Michael A. Cox
Attorney General of Michigan

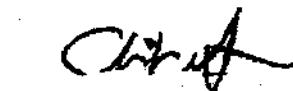

Mike Hatch
Attorney General of Minnesota



Jim Hood
Attorney General of Mississippi



Mike McGrath
Attorney General of Montana

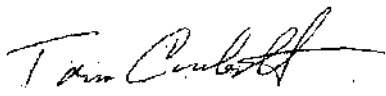

Brian Sandoval
Attorney General of Nevada



Peter C. Harvey
Attorney General of New Jersey

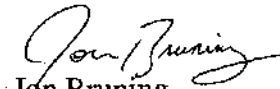

Eliot Spitzer
Attorney General of New York

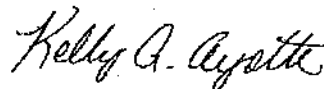

Wayne Stenehjem
Attorney General of North Dakota



W.A. Drew Edmondson
Attorney General of Oklahoma



Tom Corbett
Attorney General of Pennsylvania

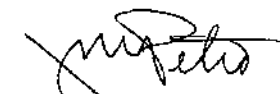

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Attorney General of Missouri



Jon Bruning
Attorney General of Nebraska

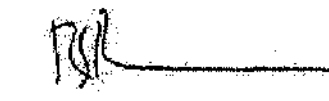

Kelly Ayotte
Attorney General of New Hampshire


Patricia A. Madrid
Attorney General of New Mexico


Roy Cooper
Attorney General of North Carolina


Jim Petro
Attorney General of Ohio


Hardy Myers
Attorney General of Oregon


Roberto J. Sanchez-Ramos
Attorney General of Puerto Rico



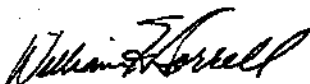
Patrick C. Lynch
Attorney General of Rhode Island



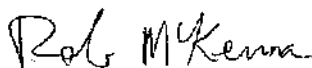
Lawrence Long
Attorney General of South Dakota



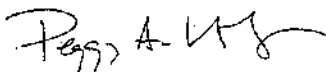
Greg Abbott
Attorney General of Texas



William H. Sorrell
Attorney General of Vermont



Rob McKenna
Attorney General of Washington



Peggy A. Lautenschlager
Attorney General of Wisconsin



Pamela Brown
Attorney General of Northern
Mariana Islands



Henry McMaster
Attorney General of South Carolina



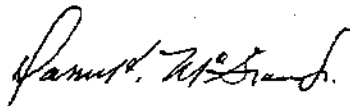
Paul G. Summers
Attorney General of Tennessee



Mark Shurtleff
Attorney General of Utah



Judith Williams Jagdmann
Attorney General of Virginia



Darrell V. McGraw Jr.
Attorney General of West Virginia



Patrick Crank
Attorney General of Wyoming

cc: All Members of Congress