

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 3, 2024

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Chairperson  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,  
and Related Agencies  
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Chairman Shaheen and Ranking Member Moran:

We respectfully urge you fully fund the programs authorized by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) that address domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking when considering the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies funding legislation. In addition, we request that you raise the current funding cap on the Crime Victims Fund to help provide resources to crime victims.

Originally enacted in 1994, VAWA has helped hundreds of thousands of women by providing access to critical and direct services such as domestic violence shelters, legal aid, culturally specific resources, and counseling services. In addition to providing services to survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, VAWA has raised public awareness about sexual and domestic violence and helped to improve the criminal justice system's response to these crimes. It is critical that these cost-effective programs be funded generously.

Similarly, 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 Fund is unique as a non-taxpayer source of victim services funding derived from criminal penalties. The passage of the VOCA Fix Act, adding funds derived from settlements and non-prosecution agreements, is improving the health of the Crime Victims Fund.


Congress must uphold the commitment it made to victims with the establishment of the Crime Victims Fund. To do so, the cap on the Crime Victims Fund should be set as high as possible during this year's appropriations. Moreover, the Fund should not be used to subsidize transfers or special projects. We also urge the Subcommittee to boost outlays from the Fund sufficient to provide for an appropriate funding stream for Tribes. Individuals on tribal lands experience high rates of domestic and sexual violence and resources from the Fund are critical in addressing tribal victims' needs.

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 make services to victims and survivors a continued priority in this year's appropriations process.

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Sincerely,



Laphonza Butler  
United States Senator



Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator




Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



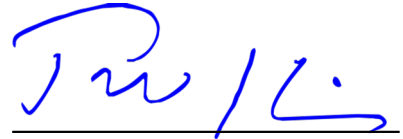
Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator

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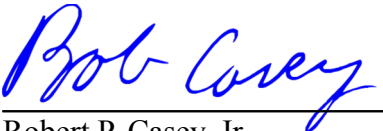
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Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



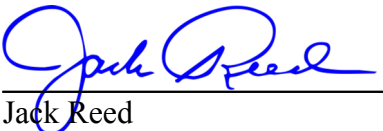
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



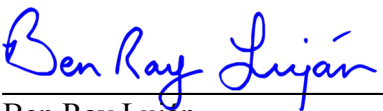
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



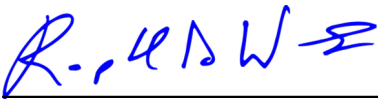
Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator

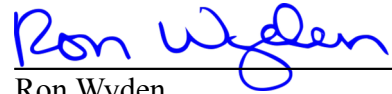
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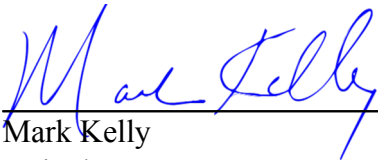
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Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



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Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



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Tina Smith  
United States Senator



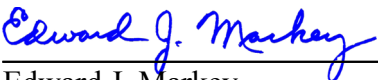
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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



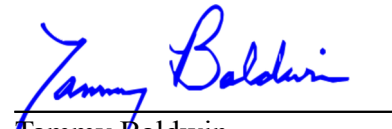
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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



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Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



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Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



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Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator

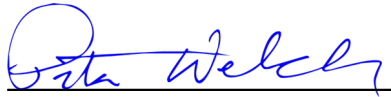


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Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator

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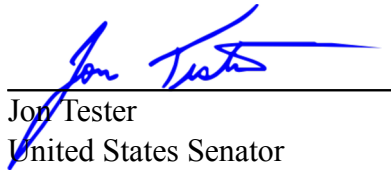
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Peter Welch  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



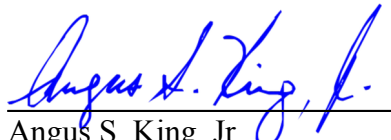
Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



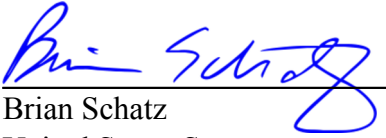
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



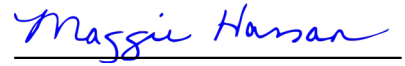
John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator

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Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator