

State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS in 2015, there were 559 homicides (53 of which were the result of domestic violence), 1,889 reported rapes, and a total of 23,194 violent crimes committed in North Carolina according to the *Annual Summary Report of 2015 Uniform Crime Reporting Data – North Carolina Dept. of Justice – State Bureau of Investigation* and the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence; and

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week – April 2-8, 2017 – provides an opportunity for our country to recognize the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) as a major bedrock of support for victim services, and to reaffirm our state and nation's commitment to addressing the needs of victims of crime; and

WHEREAS, victims and survivors of crime—many of whom suffer emotional, physical, psychological, and financial harm as a result of their experiences—can gain strength from the wide range of supportive services offered by community and justice system-based programs in North Carolina, including 97 sexual assault programs and 105 domestic violence service programs according to the NC Council for Women; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina recognizes that VOCA, passed by Congress in 1984, affirmed a national commitment to helping victims rebuild their lives by establishing the Crime Victims Fund (the Fund), a major source of funding for services and compensation to victims of crime throughout the United States; and


WHEREAS, the Fund is financed by fines and penalties paid by convicted federal offenders, affirming the principle that those who commit crimes should be held accountable for their actions; and

WHEREAS, the Crime Victims Fund provides support to states for victim assistance and victim compensation programs, and VOCA funds support victim assistance programs in non-profit, law enforcement, and local and state government agencies throughout North Carolina through the Governor's Crime Commission; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Victim Assistance Network is joining forces with victim service programs, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout North Carolina and the United States to observe the 33rd anniversary of VOCA during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, and urges all citizens to help victims of crime rebuild their lives through the aforementioned supportive services;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2-8, 2017, as "CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.




Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this third day of April in the year of our Lord two-thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.