



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

October 30, 2024

Dear Congressional Leaders:

Thank you for your support for critical resources for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Crime Victims Fund. I write today to urge Congress to restore full funding for the Crime Victims Fund.

As you know, the VOCA Crime Victims Fund is the primary source for services and supports for millions of crime victims every year including mental health counseling, legal assistance, replacement of lost wages, and temporary housing. This fund is critical for service providers in North Carolina and across the nation who provide essential resources to help survivors of crime. More cuts would devastate these providers and the people they serve.

North Carolina has seen its VOCA funds slashed from over \$100 million in 2018 to less than \$5 million projected for this upcoming funding cycle—a dramatic 95% reduction that puts services for crime victims at extreme risk. If these cuts continue, crime victims will suffer without the help and support they need and deserve.

Further cuts to the VOCA Crime Victims Fund would compromise North Carolina's ability to provide critical services for survivors of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, financial fraud, and homicide. Repeated cuts have already eaten away at nonprofits and service providers that serve victims in their communities, and additional cuts will compound the harm—especially for smaller organizations and rural providers in North Carolina and across the country. Many service providers may be forced to close their doors.

My recent state budget proposal—which the North Carolina General Assembly failed to pass—included \$6 million to ensure crime victims receive the most necessary services such as crisis care and legal assistance. But state funding is not enough to make up for the catastrophic loss of VOCA funding.

Victims of crime deserve help and support, and they are counting on Congressional leaders to act. I urge Congress to pass legislation to restore full funding for the Crime Victims Fund and give communities the resources they need to serve victims of crime and promote safety and stability.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper".

Roy Cooper