



Lieutenant Governor Austin A. Davis

September 23, 2026

The Honorable Representative Chris Deluzio
1222 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: An Urgent Appeal to Stabilize the Crime Victims Fund and VOCA (H.R. 909)

Dear Representative Chris Deluzio,

On behalf of the Shapiro-Davis Administration and the advocates, victims service providers, and over 146,000 crime victims served annually across Pennsylvania, I am writing to you with an urgent request: **please act now to protect the Crime Victims Fund and the services that depend upon it.**

For more than 40 years, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants have been a cornerstone of our nation's response to crime. VOCA-funded programs provide a lifeline to people who have experienced violence, abuse, exploitation, and other crimes – often at the moment when they are most vulnerable. These services help victims find safety, navigate the criminal justice system, access emergency assistance, receive counseling and advocacy, and begin rebuilding their lives.

Today, that lifeline is under extraordinary strain.

The federal **Crime Victims Fund** was designed to support victims through deposits generated by federal criminal fines, penalties, and related sources. Those deposits have declined drastically, however; the accumulated balance available, excluding the Binance and British American Tobacco deposits still on hold due to ongoing litigation, has shrunk from a high of \$13 billion in 2018 to less than \$1 billion at the beginning of FY 2024.

Congress has already recognized the seriousness of this problem. The U.S. House overwhelmingly passed the bipartisan Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act of 2025 (**H.R. 909**) in January 2026, which was subsequently referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. **We are urging you to help move this legislation forward.**

The consequences of continued inaction are no longer theoretical; they are being felt by programs in our Commonwealth today. Over the past two years, victims' services programs in

Pennsylvania have been cut by 12.5% due to VOCA reductions, and these cuts are expected to worsen in the year ahead absent federal action.

These numbers represent more than abstract budget reductions. They represent a victim who may not have an advocate when they report a crime, a survivor with nowhere to turn for emergency assistance, a child facing trauma without access to specialized services, or a family left to navigate an already complicated system without the support that helps them understand their rights and options.

State agencies and local victim service providers have worked hard over the last decade to absorb these reductions, stretch limited resources, and protect the most essential services – but there is a dire limit to how much more the system can absorb.

We recognize that no single piece of legislation can solve every long-term challenge facing the Crime Victims Fund. However, H.R. 909 is an important and immediate step toward stabilizing the Fund while longer-term solutions are considered. The legislation would temporarily provide additional deposits to the Fund from certain unobligated False Claims Act recoveries through 2029, while preserving funds needed to compensate the federal government and whistleblowers.

We respectfully urge you to seize the opportunity to:

1. Support the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act (H.R. 909);
2. Work with your colleagues to advance legislation that provides immediate stability to the Crime Victims Fund; and
3. Continue working toward a sustainable, long-term funding solution for VOCA victim services.

This is our plea on behalf of the people we serve: please do not wait until these long-standing programs close, positions disappear, and victims lose access to trusted services. There is still an opportunity to prevent further harm and preserve the infrastructure that communities across the country have built to support victims of crime.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to victims of crime in Pennsylvania and across the nation. We stand ready to provide any additional information, data, or testimony that would be helpful as Congress considers the future of the Crime Victims Fund.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Austin A. Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Austin" being more prominent than the last name "Davis".

Austin A. Davis
Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania
Chair, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency