

NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 12, 2024

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OVER 700 OF THE NATION'S PROSECUTORS CALL ON CONGRESS TO AVERT FUNDING CUTS TO VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) GRANTS

Arlington, Virginia – A coalition of over 700 elected and appointed chief prosecutors from jurisdictions across the United States, in partnership with the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), is calling on Congress to prioritize continued funding for victim services amidst dwindling funding. The coalition is raising alarms that without immediate congressional intervention, millions of victims, including abused children, battered women, and survivors of crime, will be left without access to essential support, safety, justice, and healing.

<u>President Biden's recently released budget</u> requests \$7.3 billion to replenish the Crime Victims Fund (CVF), aiming to stabilize this vital resource for the next decade. Without this funding, critical service providers face severe cuts or even closure, due to the CVF's ongoing decline in deposits.

Millions of crime victims face losing critical support services without immediate action from Congress. The CVF funds Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants which provide vital support to thousands of victim service providers nationwide, including programs serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, trafficking, and drunk driving. These grants also provide essential victim compensation, helping survivors cover medical bills, lost wages, and funeral costs in the most severe cases. Cuts would be most devastating for smaller programs, particularly those in rural, low-income, and communities of color.

"Victims of crime often face unimaginable hardship," said **Nelson Bunn, Executive Director of the National District Attorneys Association**. "VOCA grants are a lifeline for these individuals, providing them with the support and resources they need to rebuild their lives. Without this funding, their road to healing will become even more difficult, and justice harder to attain."

Recently, the coalition of over 700 elected and chief prosecutors issued a joint letter calling for Congress to identify potential solutions for bridge funding to avert proposed spending cuts to VOCA Grants and to find a permanent solution to the declining deposits in the Crime Victims Fund. The coalition is urging lawmakers to take immediate action to properly fund and ensure the long-term stability of victim services nationwide.

About the National District Attorneys Association:

Formed in 1950, NDAA is the oldest and largest national organization representing state and local prosecutors in the country. With more than 6,000 members representing over two-thirds of the state and local prosecutors' offices, NDAA is recognized as the leading source of national expertise on the prosecution function and is a valuable resource for the media, academia, government, and community leaders. NDAA's mission is to provide state and local prosecutors with the knowledge, skills, and support they need to ensure that justice is done and that public safety rights are protected.