November 23, 2020

Senator Kamala D. Harris
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Request to oppose the proposed $1.1 billion cut to the Victims of Crime Act grants and support an increase to Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding for Fiscal Year 2021

Dear Senator Harris:

As public prosecutors and victim advocates working to prevent crime and protect victims, we urgently request that you oppose the proposed 40% budget cut to 2021 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. Such a cut would devastate an effective system of victim service grants that make it possible for those who have been impacted by crime to heal and move on with their lives.

In serving more than three million residents throughout San Diego County, we understand how critical VOCA grants are to supporting crime survivors on their journeys toward recovery. Now is the time to shore up, not decimate, support funding for victims of child abuse, domestic violence, drunk driving, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and other violent crimes.

On behalf of crime victims, we and 36 co-signing victim-serving organizations request that you:

- Oppose the proposed $1.1 billion cut to the Victims of Crime Act grants, amounting to a 74% cut in just two years;
- Support an increase to Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding for Fiscal Year 2021; and
- Urge a 75% increase to the Federal match for state victim compensation.

Victim services providers and advocates throughout San Diego are proud to join our counterparts nationwide in making these requests that will allow crime victims to receive the support they need to regain peace and fulfillment in their lives.

Respectfully,

San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott
San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephan
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Co-signers:

Alabaster Jar Project
Alzheimer's San Diego
Center for Community Solutions
Center for Hope and Strength
Center for Justice and Reconciliation at Point Loma Nazarene University
Chadwick Center for Children and Families
Children's Riot
Christie's Place
Community Resource Center
Crime Survivors, Inc.
Crime Victims United
Free to Thrive
Freedom From Exploitation
GenerateHope
Humans Against Trafficking
Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma
Interfaith Shelter Network
Jamul Indian Village of California
Kathy's Legacy Foundation
La Maestra Anti-Human Trafficking Program
National Conflict Resolution Center
North County Lifeline
Refuge for Women SoCal
Rising Hearts Project
San Diego Center for Counseling
San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program
San Diego Youth Services
Southern Indian Health Council
Survivor Leader Network
The Children's Initiative
The Garden, Where New Life Begins of San Diego
The Thumbprint Project Foundation
The Well Path
Trauma Intervention Programs of San Diego
Women's Resource Center
YWCA of San Diego County