



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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mara W. Elliott'.

San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Summer Stephan'.

San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephan

Senator Kamala D. Harris

November 23, 2020

Page 2

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