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# PRESS RELEASE

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## Attorney General Brown Joins Bipartisan Coalition Urging Congress to Stabilize Funding to Support Victims of Crime

**BALTIMORE, MD (February 7, 2024)** – Maryland Attorney General Anthony G. Brown is joining a bipartisan coalition of 41 Attorneys General in [urging the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives](#) to authorize much-needed 2024 funding for the federal Crime Victims Fund (VOCA Fund). The VOCA Fund supports critical services for crime victims and survivors across the country. According to the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office for Victims of Crime, projected fiscal year (FY) 2024 funding for victim service grants will be \$700 million lower than fiscal year 2023.

“Victims and witnesses depend on the services funded by the VOCA Fund,” **said Attorney General Brown**. “I join my fellow Attorneys General in calling on Congress to fully fund these important programs and services.”

The VOCA Fund was established by the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, and it is the primary financial source for victim services in all 50 states, five U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. VOCA Fund revenue is generated from offenders convicted of crimes, not from taxes.

In 2021, Congress passed the VOCA Fix Act, which allows monetary recoveries from certain federal prosecutions and non-prosecution agreements to replenish the fund. While passage of the VOCA Fix Act was necessary, it was not sufficient, and 2024 VOCA funding for crime victim service programs is anticipated to be 41% lower nationwide when compared to 2023 grant awards.

The VOCA Fund supports medical care, mental health counseling, lost wages, courtroom advocacy, and temporary housing for victims. It also supports survivors of crime and helps to fund federal, state, and tribal victim service programs, crime victim compensation, discretionary grant awards, victim specialists in U.S. Attorney’s Offices and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the federal victim notification system.

Without prompt action by Congress, many victim service programs across the country may be forced to close.

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VOCA funds in Maryland are administered by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. Agencies apply for grants and use them to fund victim-witness services and to provide direct financial support to victims. In FY2023, Maryland received \$23,712,038 from VOCA.

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