

**ANN WAGNER**

2ND DISTRICT, MISSOURI

2350 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-1621

301 SOVEREIGN COURT  
SUITE 201  
BALLWIN, MO 63011  
(636) 779-5449

wagner.house.gov

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2502**

VICE RANKING MEMBER  
COMMITTEE ON  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

RANKING MEMBER  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY AND  
INCLUSION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTOR PROTECTION,  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP,  
AND CAPITAL MARKETS

VICE RANKING MEMBER  
COMMITTEE ON  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE, EURASIA,  
ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA, THE PACIFIC,  
AND NONPROLIFERATION

December 10, 2020

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McCarthy,

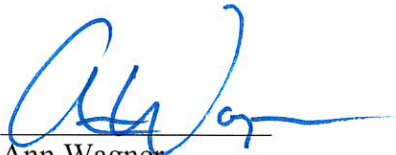
We write to respectfully request that language be included in the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations bill to stabilize funding for Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants, the primary source of federal funding for programs serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, trafficking, and drunk driving. The language, negotiated with bipartisan members in both chambers, applies simple changes that will ensure essential services for victims continue.

VOCA grants compensate survivors and enable thousands of victim service providers to offer critical services to those who have suffered serious crimes. These grants are paid for out of the Crime Victims Fund (CVF), which is funded by federal criminal monetary penalties—not by taxpayers. However, the Department of Justice (DOJ) is increasingly seeking non-prosecution and deferred-prosecution agreements instead of prosecuting federal crimes. As a result, money that would otherwise serve victims is being deposited into the General Treasury instead of the CVF. This will bring potentially catastrophic cuts to VOCA grants, endangering efforts to help victims. VOCA grant funding decreased by 25 percent in Fiscal Year 2020, a trend service providers expect to continue. If the CVF is not stabilized, programs may be forced to close, leaving thousands of Americans unable to access lifesaving services every year.

To restore reliable funding for VOCA programs, we ask that you include changes in the Fiscal Year 2021 spending legislation that would direct criminal settlements from federal non-prosecution and deferred prosecution agreements to the CVF; increase the percentage that state compensation programs are reimbursed from 60 to 75 percent; and allow states to apply for a no-cost cost extension for VOCA assistance grants so that they can more effectively distribute grants. 56 state and territorial Attorneys General, the National District Attorneys Association, the National Criminal Justice Association, Major Cities Chiefs of Police Association, and the Major Cities Sheriffs Association, Child Advocacy Centers, and hundreds of victim advocacy organizations have asked Congress to enact this commonsense solution so that they can continue to provide services to victims and protect their communities.

We again urge you to protect VOCA grant programs through the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations legislation. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress



Martha Roby  
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik  
Member of Congress



Liz Cheney  
Member of Congress