

November 13, 2023

We, the 11 undersigned organizations commend Representatives Wagner (R-MO), Ross (D-NC), Smith (R-MO), Costa (D-CA), and D’Esposito (D-NY) for sponsoring the bipartisan [Amendment 65](#) to the House FY24 Commerce Justice Science (CJS) Appropriations bill. If enacted, this amendment would bring us one step closer to reducing a devastating \$700 million cut in the lifesaving Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding that helps victims of crime including domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and trafficking find safety and healing from violence.

We urge all Members to vote “Yes” on Amendment 65 to the House FY24 CJS bill:

- This amendment would allow surplus funds secured via the False Claims Act (FCA) to supplement VOCA funding in Fiscal Year 24 (FY24).
- VOCA services for victims of crimes are already an eligible use of FCA dollars. This amendment simply states that the Attorney General can direct FCA dollars to be used together with the dollars from the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) for VOCA grants in the coming year to help prevent program cuts in FY24.
- This is a temporary solution while Congress works towards a path to find a more permanent solution for sustainable, long-term funding.

Our programs and the victims we serve are facing what can only be described as a catastrophe. The \$1.2 billion proposed by the House, Senate and Presidents FY24 budget for VOCA would be a devastating \$700 million cut. At this proposed funding level, thousands of victim service providers across the nation will be forced to lay off staff, cut programs, and/or shut their doors. The impact will fall hardest on the smallest programs, particularly programs in rural communities, low-income communities, and Communities of Color. Potentially tens of millions of victims nationwide will lose access to lifesaving and life-sustaining services to address child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, and more. Without access to these critical services, the real-time impact will not only be felt by individuals and families, but also in communities nationwide.

Given the dire potential consequences, on behalf of the victims and survivors we all serve, we ask that **Congress vote “Yes” on Amendment 65 and continue to work towards a permanent solution for long-term and sustainable funding for VOCA.**

For questions or more information, contact Terri Poore (terri@endsexualviolence.org), or Monica McLaughlin (mmclaughlin@nnev.org).

Sincerely,

Esperanza United
Futures Without Violence
Jewish Women International (JWI)

National Alliance to End Sexual Violence

National Children's Alliance

National Network to End Domestic Violence

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

Tahirih Justice Center

The National Domestic Violence Hotline

Ujima Inc., The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community

VALOR