



**State of Alaska
Department of Public Safety
Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault**

**Sean Parnell, Governor
Joseph A. Masters, Commissioner**

March 10, 2010

The Honorable Beth Kerttula
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Kerttula:

On behalf of the Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, I want to thank you for introducing a resolution urging the United States Congress to pass the Crime Victims Fund Preservation Act. As the funding agency through which victim assistance is distributed in Alaska, we have seen an increase in the number of victims of crime and the growing need for victim assistance and compensation.

Although there has been an increase in recent years of criminal fines and penalties collected into the Crime Victims Fund, due to "capping" of Fund obligations, crime victim assistance requests typically far exceed available resources. The reduction in state assistance grant funding experienced by all states including Alaska, together with the current economic climate, has made it difficult for victim service providers to continue to offer the level of service necessary to meet all the needs of crime victims. The Crime Victims Fund is one of the main sources of money and support for crime victims and crime victim services, we believe the Fund can provide more help.

Congress has reaffirmed its commitment to stable program funding and has the ability to provide predictable growth. The Crime Victims Fund Preservation Act would establish a minimum funding level for programs under VOCA to ensure reasonable growth in victim services through FY 2014. Providing a stable funding stream will help states with their ongoing program efforts, as well as expansion of programs and outreach to a growing number of crime victims. The cost of this does not come from taxpayer funds but will come exclusively from Federal criminal fines and penalties. The additional funding is greatly needed right now across the nation and would be sincerely appreciated by victim service providers and all of the victims they serve. This legislation is a small first step in meeting victims' needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Samaniego", is written over a horizontal line.

Sandy Samaniego
Executive Director