



**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION**

VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA)

WHEREAS, The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Fund was authorized by Congress in 1984, pursuant to the Victims of Crime Act to assist with the operation of federal, state and local crime victim programs. The Fund is funded primarily by the fines, assessments and fees imposed on federal offenders and not from taxpayers' dollars; and

WHEREAS, The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Fund, in turn, is distributed through formula grants to all 50 states for (1)victim assistance programs, (2)victim compensation programs and (3)training and technical assistance to victim service providers; and

WHEREAS, approximately 3.8 million victims of all types of crime receive services from 4,400 service agencies per year through the victim assistance programs and hundreds of thousands of victims receive help through the victim compensation programs, all as a result of the VOCA Funds' existence. The Fund provides invaluable assistance with services through a number of public and non-profit entities including the provision of crisis intervention, emergency shelter, transportation, counseling, and criminal justice advocacy, the payment of medical costs, funeral and burial expenses, lost wages and mental health related costs; and

WHEREAS, state and local prosecutors rely heavily upon the VOCA Fund for the development and implementation of victim services programs which, in part, notify victims of court proceedings, transport victims to court, assist victims with the completion of victim impact statements, provide notification of offenders' release dates, assist victims in recovering restitution, and work closely with victims of gang violence, domestic abuse, and child & elder abuse to provide a support system for those who must deal not only with intimidation from offenders or third parties but often with their own special needs; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that federal assistance with state and local victim assistance and compensation programs remain available due to the recent budget cuts at the state and local levels; and

WHEREAS, as part of the President's FY2007 Budget Request, it has been proposed that a 625 million dollar limit be imposed on the spending from the VOCA Fund for FY2007 in addition to a rescission of 1.255 billion dollars from the Fund; and

WHEREAS, the intent of Congress, expressed during the authorization and appropriation of The Victims of Crime Act Fund, was that a stable source of funding remain available for the purpose of assisting states with the provision of victims' services; and

WHEREAS, the impact of the rescission would be devastating to victims of crime; negatively impact the ability of state and local prosecutors to carry out their duties as mandated; and impair the functioning of the criminal justice system.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National District Attorneys Association hereby strongly supports the current funding of The Victims of Crime Act Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National District Attorneys Association hereby strongly urges Congress to reject the proposal to rescind 1.255 billion from The Victims of Crime Act Fund for FY2007.

Adopted by the Board of Directors, April 8, 2006 (San Diego, California)
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