



LARRY HOGAN  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

September 24, 2021

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin  
U.S. Senate  
509 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
U.S. Senate  
110 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1705 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Anthony G. Brown  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1323 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2206 Rayburn Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Trone  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1213 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Andy Harris  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2334 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Sarbanes  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2370 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin  
U.S. House of Representatives  
431 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation:

In Maryland, our administration has worked tirelessly to create a system of justice which restores victims and strengthens communities. A system that empowers victims, gives them the resources they need for their personal safety, to become self-sufficient, and to break the cycle of criminal victimization.

It has been brought to my attention that Congress has drastically reduced state funding under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), including a devastating 38 percent cut to Maryland's allocation. These are vital resources for some of our most vulnerable Marylanders, including victims of violent crimes such as sexual assault and domestic abuse. Victims depend on these programs and it's unacceptable that Congress would allow this to happen.

Maryland's VOCA funding is distributed directly to victims' service providers in every corner of our state. Unfortunately, if these devastating federal cuts are not reversed, these organizations will serve far fewer victims in the coming year and the progress we have made to build up the infrastructure and capabilities of these nonprofits will be greatly diminished.

This action is shockingly out of line with the values espoused by the Biden administration and the majorities in Congress. As the chief executive responsible for implementing this program, I am at a loss for how our administration should explain your actions to these service providers who stand to see a nearly 20 percent reduction to their year-over-year funding. Are they to cut services for victims, or lay off staff? These are choices they should not have to make -- Congress can and must do better.

I have enclosed a letter from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services executive director Glenn Fueston to Maryland's VOCA subgrantees informing them of the federal funding reduction and resulting cuts. As the state's congressional delegation, I'm counting on you to reverse this unjust action and restore funding to these organizations that provide a lifeline for Marylanders under dire circumstances. Please contact my Director of Federal Relations, Ariel Judah ([ariel.judah@maryland.gov](mailto:ariel.judah@maryland.gov)), with additional questions.

Sincerely,



Larry Hogan  
Governor