

SJM 2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Chotzen

House Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 04/28/25

Action: Be Adopted.

Vote: 7-0-1-0

Yeas: 7 - Chaichi, Chotzen, Kropf, Lewis, Mannix, Tran, Wallan

Exc: 1 - Andersen

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 4/21, 4/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure urges Congress to enact legislation alleviating the funding crisis in the Crime Victims Fund.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- VOCA generally
- Crime Victim Funds (CVF) uses
- Decline of the balance of the CVF from 2012 to 2024

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Crime Victims Fund (CVF) was established by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984. The Fund is financed by fines and penalties from convictions in federal cases, not from tax dollars. As of December 2024, the CVF balance is over \$4.2 billion and includes deposits (also known as receipts) from federal criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalties, and special assessments collected by U.S. Attorneys' Offices, federal courts, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Federal, state, and Tribal victim assistance programs receive formula grants, discretionary grants, and set-asides according to an established annual allocation process. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the CVF balance dropped by 82.94 percent from \$13.08 billion in 2017 to \$2.23 billion by the end of 2024. As a result of this shortfall, Congress dropped the statutory obligation cap from \$1.9 billion in FY2023 to \$1.35 billion in FY2024, resulting in each state seeing a decrease in funding for victim assistance programs.