

## Senate Joint Memorial 2

Sponsored by Senators TAYLOR, MANNING JR, Representative SMITH G, Senator ANDERSON; Senators BONHAM, CAMPOS, FREDERICK, GELSER BLOUIN, GIROD, GOLDEN, GORSEK, HAYDEN, JAMA, LIEBER, MEEK, PATTERSON, PROZANSKI, REYNOLDS, SMITH DB, SOLLMAN, WEBER, Representatives BOWMAN, GAMBA, GOMBERG, HELFRICH, HELM, MANNIX, PHAM H (at the request of former Senator Tim Knopp) (Presession filed.)

### SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Urges Congress to pass a law about crime victims. (Flesch Readability Score: 75.5).  
Urges Congress to enact legislation alleviating the funding crisis in the Crime Victims Fund.

### JOINT MEMORIAL

1  
2 To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United  
3 States of America, in Congress assembled:

4 We, your memorialists, the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legisla-  
5 tive session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

6 Whereas Congress created the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) through the Victims of Crime Act of  
7 1984 to provide funding for state victims' assistance programs; and

8 Whereas the CVF is not funded by taxpayer dollars but instead is primarily financed through  
9 the fines, settlements, bonds and other monetary penalties associated with federal criminal prose-  
10 cutions; and

11 Whereas the CVF provides support to thousands of essential victims' assistance programs  
12 throughout the United States, including child advocacy centers, domestic violence agencies and rape  
13 crisis centers, serving millions of crime victims each year; and

14 Whereas deposits into the CVF fluctuate annually depending on the cases prosecuted by the  
15 United States Department of Justice; and

16 Whereas the CVF's balance has seen a drastic decline in recent years; and

17 Whereas according to the Office for Victims of Crime, the CVF's end-of-year balance for the  
18 2024 fiscal year was \$1.2 billion, a 90 percent decrease since the 2017 fiscal year; and

19 Whereas because of this shortfall, the victims' assistance programs supported by the CVF na-  
20 tionwide now face a devastating cut in funding, which will force many vital programs to reduce or  
21 eliminate services, lay off staff or close their doors entirely; and

22 Whereas the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act of 2024 directly addresses this problem by  
23 redirecting funds collected through the False Claims Act into the CVF through the 2029 fiscal year;  
24 and

25 Whereas this temporary infusion of resources will help stabilize the CVF, while retaining the  
26 fund's original intent of being financed by legal fines and fees, not tax dollars; and

27 Whereas this legislation will give victims' assistance programs the support they need to keep  
28 their operations running, providing vital services to countless victims in crisis; now, therefore,

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.  
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

2 That we, the members of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly, recognize the urgent need to  
3 pursue viable solutions to the funding threat facing the Crime Victims Fund; and be it further

4 Resolved, That we respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to pass, and the President  
5 to sign, the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act of 2024 or similar legislation; and be it further

6 Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, the  
7 Senate Majority Leader, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and each member of the  
8 Oregon Congressional Delegation.

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