

Enrolled

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, THATCHER, WEBER, Representatives BOWMAN, CHAICHI, CHOTZEN, GAMBA, GOMBERG, HELFRICH, HELM, KRÖPF, MANNIX, PHAM H, RESCHKE (at the request of former Senator Tim Knopp) (Pre-session filed.)

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

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

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

Whereas the CVF is not funded by taxpayer dollars but instead is primarily financed through the fines, settlements, bonds and other monetary penalties associated with federal criminal prosecutions; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adopted by Senate March 4, 2025

Obadiah Rutledge, Secretary of Senate

Rob Wagner, President of Senate

Adopted by House May 5, 2025

Julie Fahey, Speaker of House