



Safe NOW Project

www.safeNOWproject.org

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SAFE NOW PROJECT URGES CONGRESS TO SAVE THE CRIME VICTIMS FUND

TRENTON, MO...Each year approximately 3.8 million crime victims and their families receive direct support and assistance including counseling, medical care, emergency shelter, rape crisis services and help participating in the criminal justice system. These services, and others, such as victim notification and restitution, are currently at risk of being eliminated. On February 6, 2006, the Administration released the FY 2007 budget removing \$1.255 billion from the Crime Victims Fund, which would leave a zero balance for FY 2008. **Safe NOW Project** calls for the support of Congress to save the Crime Victims Fund.

- The Crime Victim Fund helps millions of victims of all types of crime every year.
- The Fund comes from the collection of Federal criminal fines; **NOT TAXPAYER** revenues;
- Congress has repeatedly insisted that all amounts deposited into the Fund would remain available for victim services; and
- The Administration's FY 2007 budget recommends rescinding \$1.255 billion from the Crime Victims Fund; that means there would be no funds available to support any of the Fund's victim services at the start of FY 2008.

The Crime Victims Fund is an essential component of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984 that prioritized the Federal government's support for programs that serve victims of all types of crime. Each year, Federal criminal fines, forfeitures and special assessments are deposited into the Crime Victims Fund to:

- Improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases;
- Supplement State funds used to reimburse victims of violent crimes for medical expenses, mental health counseling, lost wages, loss of support and funeral/burial costs;
- Provide assistance to victims involved in Federal criminal prosecutions;
- Provide automated notification to victims of pending Federal court actions;
- Support national training and technical assistance to victim service providers; and
- Replenish a reserve fund to assist victims of domestic and international terrorism and mass violence.

According to Margaret Bullens, Founder of **Safe NOW Project**, "it is critical to preserve and enhance the much needed services to crime victims. The Crime Victims Fund is needed to not only help restore crime victims, but also helps to hold offenders accountable for the damages, pain and suffering they inflict."

The **Safe NOW Project, Inc.** strives to prevent sexual violence through community action, education and public policy leadership for a safer, more productive world. As a national 501c3 non-profit, **Safe NOW Project** is working at the national, state and local levels to minimize the impact of sexual violence on children and their families. For additional information about the **Safe NOW Project**, please visit our website at www.safeNOWproject.org.

