



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

October 28, 2015

Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-3804

Dear Senator Casey:

I have been informed that the Bi-Partisan Budget Act of 2015 calls for the permanent cancelation of \$1.5 billion from the Crime Victims Fund. I believe this puts in danger our commitment to victims of crime throughout the country and I want to express my concern.

The Crime Victims Fund was established in 1984 and is financed by fines and penalties paid by convicted federal offenders. Since its creation, the fund has distributed over \$14 billion to crime victim compensation programs and victim assistance programs. These programs are helping constituents in your districts that have been the victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child-abuse, and many other violent crimes.

In a time of declining budgets at the state and local level, the crime victims fund has been a lifeline for victim's services. Without these dollars, programs for your constituents would close or be severely curtailed. That is why I am asking you to oppose any legislation that would seek to remove money from the Crime Victims Fund, both now and in the future.

While we recognize the importance of increasing spending on social and human services we do not believe that the Crime Victims Fund should be used to offset those costs. The fund is entirely comprised of dollars paid by the perpetrators of crime and I believe that those funds should be solely dedicated to their victims.

This is an issue that is important to me and the citizens of Pennsylvania. I hope that it is important to you. I urge you to protect the Crime Victims Fund and I thank you for your service to the Commonwealth.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Josh Shapiro".

JOSH SHAPIRO
Chairman