



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

## SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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May 29, 2024

The Honorable Aisha Wahab  
Senate Public Safety Committee, Chair  
1020 N Street, Room 545  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **ASSEMBLY BILL 2432 (GABRIEL) SUPPORT Senate Public Safety Committee**

Dear Senator Wahab:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 2432 (Gabriel).

AB 2432 would establish the California Crime Victims Fund that would be funded by a fine imposed on corporations convicted of criminal offenses.

AB 2432 would require a court, unless it finds a compelling and extraordinary reason for not doing so, to impose a separate and additional restitution fine on a corporation convicted of a criminal offense. AB 2432 would impose a fine of at least \$100,000 for a felony conviction and at least \$1,000 for a misdemeanor conviction. The bill provides that the court may determine the amount of the fine but that the fine shall not be greater than either:

- (1) Two times the value of the taking or loss, whichever is greater, if the offense resulted in the taking of another person's or entity's money, labor, or real or personal property.
- (2) Twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000).

The additional funds could help cover expected reductions in federal dollars from the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA). This funding is critically needed by states like California due to a dramatic decrease in federal VOCA funding.

In 2023, the federal government appropriated \$1.9 billion for the VOCA's Crime Victims Fund (CVF). This year the federal government only fund the CVF at \$1.2 billion. This significant reduction in federal funding caused CalOES to reduce California's VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program by almost 45%.

Funding from the CVF provides the largest consistent funding source for support to Californians who have been victims of crime. VOCA provides funds for an array of critical services and programs, which include domestic violence service providers, Rape Crisis Centers, legal assistance, human trafficking services, services to address crime survivor homelessness, and other vital services.

The reduction to California's VOCA funding will have a detrimental impact on the ability of Los Angeles County's provider network to provide domestic violence shelter/housing, legal and other services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

Our Bureau of Victim Services will also be directly impacted by the upcoming reduction in California's VOCA funding. Without additional funding the Bureau of Victim Services will lose funding for approximately 20 Victim Services Representatives. Victim services representatives provide a range of free services to help victims become survivors. They work in courthouses and police stations and are available to provide assistance in several languages. Program services are provided free of charge and there is no legal residency or citizenship requirement. Victim services representatives work in coordination with deputy district attorneys and are specially trained to help children, seniors, people with disabilities and victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and other violent crime.

Our Office is deeply concerned that cuts in VOCA CVF funding will have devastating impacts to crime survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and other violent crimes and their families.

AB 2432 will help fund critically important VOCA funded programs by holding corporations accountable for their wrongdoing. Individuals who commit criminal acts face significant fines and incarceration periods for their wrongdoing. Corporations cannot be incarcerated and often the monetary fines are insignificant to the corporation and simply become a cost of doing business.

Establishing a permanent funding mechanism for VOCA funded programs by holding corporations accountable for their wrongdoing is good public policy.

Our Office is pleased to support AB 2432 to help ensure that victims of crime have access to the vital services they need.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Daniel Felizzatto in my Sacramento Legislative Office at (916) 442-0668.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George Gascón", written in a cursive style.

GEORGE GASCÓN  
District Attorney