



4/2/2025

The Honorable William O'Brien
Chair, House Finance Subcommittee on Public Safety
Rhode Island General Assembly

Re: FY26 Budget - Department of Public Safety – Victim Service Funding

Dear Chair O'Brien and members of the committee,

Family Service of Rhode Island has historically received VOCA funding through the Department of Public Safety, which we use to serve clients through our Go Team® partnerships with police departments across the state.

We have consistently seen these funds going down as federal funding wanes. These VOCA dollars are only federal pass through funds and Rhode Island current spends almost no state funds on victims.

At the same time, Rhode Island spends approximately \$7,800 per prisoner each year. By allocating just 10% of that amount— about \$750—toward supporting each of the state's 42,000 victims, Rhode Island could commit \$30 million to vital victim services.

You will hear Chair Craven's bill, H5390 the V.I.C.T.I.M. Act, this session which would do just that -- create a grant pool of \$30 Million to fund supporting programming for the victims and survivors we work with each day.

Other states make significant investments in their victims, not just their prisoners. We urge you to join those states and add victim funding into the FY26 Public Safety Budget this year.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter and please reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Holland McDuff', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Margaret Holland McDuff
CEO