

# Support the V.I.C.T.I.M Act

## *Victims of Crime Trauma Informed Mobilization Act*

*S258 and H5390*

### WHAT IS IT?

The V.I.C.T.I.M Act would allocate \$30M in state funds to support the approximately 42,000 Rhode Islanders that receive victim services each year. The bill would establish a VICTIM Fund grant program to administer funds to qualified direct-service nonprofits.

**SPONSORED BY: Senator LaMountain and Representative Craven**

### VICTIM SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Emergency shelter
- Criminal justice support
- Individual advocacy
- Individual and group counseling
- Hotline/Crisis counseling
- Forensic examinations
- Supportive Housing
- Basic needs for survivors



### SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF CRIME IS A SMART INVESTMENT

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.



This targeted \$30 million investment would dramatically enhance service providers' capacity to meet the needs of their clients. Spending on victim services has an exponential impact, benefiting not only the individual victims but also their families and communities. This makes it a smart, socially responsible investment, one that yields both moral and practical returns.

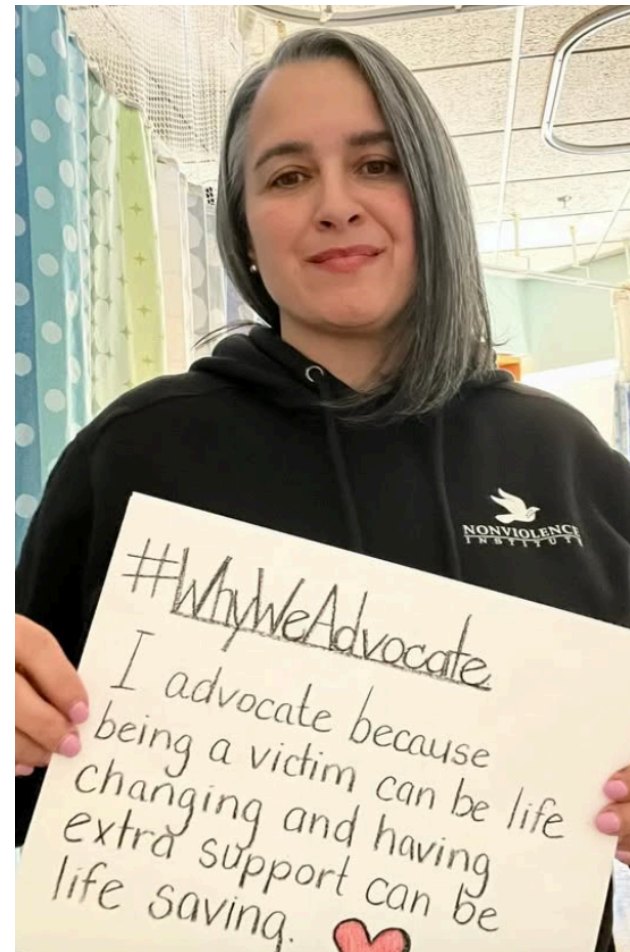
# Why \$30M now?

## THE NEED IS CRITICAL

- Currently, Rhode Island victim service organizations rely heavily on funding from the federal government. That funding has been decreasing and unreliable.
  - Just last year we saw a 40% decrease in Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding.
- Victim service organizations are seeing an increased demand for help. To meet this need, Rhode Island must step up—especially to support the most vulnerable members of our community.

## AND

- Investing in victim services can actually save taxpayers money by preventing future violence and reducing the burden on emergency services.



**Rhode Island spends little to no state funds on victim service programs, in contrast to most other states.**

Other states, including our neighbors in MA, CT, NY, and PA already invest significant state dollars in victim services.



**Rhode Island must follow suit and prioritize the safety and wellbeing of victims of violence.**