



House Appropriations - Human Resources Division  
Testimony In Support of Senate Bill #2015

Chairman Nelson, Members of the Committee,

My name is Greg Kasowski, executive director of the Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota. I am here in support of SB 2015, specifically the allocation of one-time funding for "Victims of crime grants" on page 2, line 17. This funding is critical for vital services provided to children and families who are victims of crimes across North Dakota.

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR) administers federal funding from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), which is the primary source of federal grant funding for victim services, including services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, human trafficking, attempted homicide, and other crimes.

However, as you may be aware, VOCA funding has become relatively unstable over the past several years. This is due to low deposits into the Crime Victims Fund (CVF), a pot of money filled by fines and fees associated with federal criminal convictions. North Dakota's measured approach to releasing VOCA funds has helped us weather this storm much more effectively over the past several years compared to other states.

SB 2015 provides a crucial supplementary funding stream to bridge this gap. This funding is not just for our state's three Children's Advocacy Centers. It helps 37 victim serving agencies across North Dakota including domestic and sexual assault programs, victims' assistance programs, and human trafficking intervention programs.

### **What Potential Solutions Are Happening at the Federal Level to VOCA?**

Federal solutions to the instability of VOCA funding are in the works. During the last Congress, the first Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act ([H.R. 8061](#)) garnered bipartisan support from 210 House co-sponsors, including then Congressman Kelly Armstrong. Just weeks ago, the current Congress introduced version 2.0 of the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act ([H.R. 909](#)), and it already has a growing list of 79 co-sponsors. The aim of the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act is to amend the VOCA statute to add a new item under deposit collections

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CENTERS**  
OF NORTH DAKOTA

into the CVF to now include non-taxpayer money collected from the False Claims Act. After whistleblowers and the federal government are paid first for false claims, then any leftover money is deposited into the CVF.

Chairman Nelson and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony, and we respectfully request a DO PASS on SB 2015 related to the "Victims of crime grants" funding.

Sincerely,

Greg Kasowski  
Executive Director

Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota

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