

Commissioners sign Resolution supporting Victims of Crime Assistance

Written by Webmaster

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The Board of Commissioners signed a resolution to help protect Victims of Crime Assistance (VOCA). The Victims of Crime Act of 1984 established the Crime Victims fund, a main source of money and support for crime victims and services. The compensation program pays directly for medical care, counseling, lost wages, funerals and other out of pocket expenses for victims of crimes. In 2000 Congress began capping annual spending for the fund in order to ensure a stable level of funding remains in place. Since 2004 the cap on the amount released has been lower than the amount of deposits into the fund creating nearly a 1.5 billion dollar surplus. These caps and funding cuts limit the victim services HAVIN and other VOCA groups will be able to provide. The Board of Commissioners passed Armstrong County Resolution 2009-02, Victims of Crime Assistance, recommending to Congress that the annual cap on the VOCA Crime Victims Fund be increased to one billion dollars, and that the increase in released funds be allocated entirely to State Victim Assistance Grants. Copies of the resolution will be transmitted to the President pro tempore of the United States Senate and the Speaker of the United States House of Commission on Crime and Delinquency.