**FAIRNESS FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT OF 2015 (VOCA Overhaul Bill)**

**What is the Crime Victims Fund?**

* No taxpayer dollars involved.
* How it Works
* Each year, criminal fines and penalties collected by the federal government are deposited into the Fund.
* DOJ disburses money from the Fund to States and other entities to assist victims
* Under the statute, money from the Fund may only be used to assist victims.

**Problem**

* Since FY2000, Congress has capped disbursals.
* The goal was to smooth outflows, but the outflows have not kept pace with intakes.
* For example, from FY10 through FY14:
* The Fund collected an average of $2B each year, but disbursed only an average of $700 million per year.
* The $6.5B difference was just left in fund and used to make budgets on paper look smaller.

**The Fairness for Victims of Crime Act**

1. Requires that, each year, DOJ disburse the average of the past 3 years’ intake
   * Under this bill, in FY16:

* CVF will disburse ~$2.6B vs. $745M in FY14
* Victim service groups will have access to **4¼ times as much money as was available in FY14**

1. Creates, for the first time, a dedicated funding stream for Tribal Governments

* $98M in FY16

1. Ensures that crucial services are covered, such as:

* forensic interviews
* forensic medical exams for child abuse victims (not just evidence collection)
* relocation services for trafficking victims and domestic violence victims
* evidence-based counseling
* Victims advocacy (which has always been covered remains as a crucial service)

1. **Lowers the match requirement to 7.5% allowing groups to collect 3 1/3 times as much as they currently collect.**