

November 17, 2015

The Honorable Patrick J. Toomey
United States Senate
248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Toomey:

On behalf of First Focus Campaign for Children (FFCC), a national bipartisan advocacy organization dedicated to making children and their families a priority in federal policy and budget decisions, I write today to thank you for introducing the bipartisan “Fairness for Victims of Crime Act of 2015” (S. 1495) and offer our endorsement of this legislation.

In 1984, Congress created the Crime Victims Fund to support programs that assist victims of crimes. The money in the fund comes from penalties and fines collected from convicted criminals, and no taxpayer dollars are used. Child advocacy centers, domestic violence shelters, services for victims of trafficking and other service providers rely on the fund to support victims and help them heal.

Under federal law, the money in the fund can only be used to support programs that assist victims of crimes. However, since 2000, Congress has placed caps on the amount of money that can be taken out of the fund to provide services for victims. From 2010 to 2014, the fund collected \$12 billion dollars but only used 30% of the money on services for crime victims. In the most recent budget deal, Congress allocated \$1.5 billion dollars from this fund to pay for new spending. This money takes away from domestic shelters, therapy for victims and numerous other services needed to help rehabilitate crime victims.

The Fairness for Victims of Crimes Act protects victims of abuse, child trafficking, rape, and other heinous crimes by ensuring that the money in the fund can only be used to aid victims of crimes. By ensuring that the fund is used for what it was originally intended for, funding for victim compensation and support services will be preserved. We applaud you on your leadership in introducing this legislation and hope that more of these funds will become available to help children who have been victims of crimes heal from their trauma. We look forward to working with you in the future to continue to promote efforts aimed at improving the well-being of all our nation’s children and youth.

Sincerely,



President