



March 5, 2024

Chairman Robert E. Craven, Sr.  
House of Representatives Committee on Judiciary  
House Lounge, State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: 2024- H7747

Dear Chairman Craven:

On behalf of Day One, we are presenting testimony in support of H7747 “An Act Relating to Criminal Procedure – Criminal Injuries Compensation.” This act would allow victims of violent crime receiving awards under the state’s crime victim compensation program to use up to \$1,000 of their total award to make reasonable modification to their residence to ensure their future safety.

Currently, victims are able to utilize funds to move residences, but individuals cannot use program funds to remain in their current home. This legislative change would permit up to \$1,000 of an individual’s award to be used for reasonable modifications to their residence to ensure their future safety. Such a change would allow a victim to make changes including re-keying their locks or installing a modest home security system or cameras to provide ease of mind and a measure of comfort.

Adding this use of funds to the Crime Victim’s Compensation Fund program would allow the program to be more inclusive and help support victims who do not wish to move their residence but still make modifications to ensure their safety.

Day One strongly supports passing this legislation. Victims should have the ability to use funds to accommodate their homes instead of only being able to use some of those funds to uproot and move.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Peg Langhammer'.

Peg Langhammer  
Executive Director, Day One