



State of Rhode Island
Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State
Gregg M. Amore, Secretary of State

March 5, 2024

Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr., Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: In support of H7747- An Act Relating to Criminal Procedure – Criminal Injuries Compensation

Dear Chair Craven,

I write this letter in support of House Bill 7747, legislation that will help victims with the costs associated with the aftermath of a crime through the Crime Victim Compensation Program (CVCP), administered by General Treasurer James A. Diossa's Office. This bill expands the CVCP eligibility requirement for victims of a sexual offense by allowing the CVCP to cover expenses for victims who need to modify their current residence for their safety.

Individuals impacted by crime may find it difficult or frightening to continue with their daily tasks and routine, especially in matters relating to public civic life. For this reason, the Department of State is fully committed to the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) administered by my office, which enables victims of domestic violence, abuse, stalking, sexual assault, or trafficking to protect the confidentiality of their addresses. The ACP serves many of the same victims and families who receive support from CVCP.

Therefore, I urge this Committee to support modifying this specific requirement to the Crime Victims Compensation Program proposed in House Bill 7747, as it will provide the most meaningful financial assistance and reprieve to victims. This support – in tandem with the ACP and services provided by many partner organizations – will ensure that victims are safe and that being impacted by crime does not prevent anyone from participating in civic life.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michelle Arias, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, at marias@sos.ri.gov.

Sincerely,

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Justine Caldwell