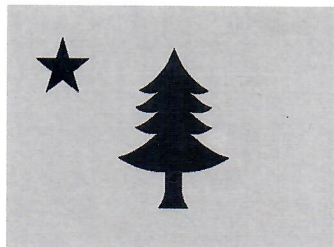


Maeghan Maloney  
District Attorney

Frayla Tarpinian  
Deputy District Attorney

Frank Griffin  
First Assistant District Attorney



Kennebec County Courthouse  
95 State Street, Augusta, ME 04330  
(P) 207-623-1156 or 207-623-1157  
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Somerset County Courthouse  
41 Court Street, Skowhegan, ME 04976  
(P) 207-474-2423 or 207-474-5517  
(F) 207-474-7407

STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
PROSECUTORIAL DISTRICT IV

January 23, 2024

Dear Honorable Chairs Senator Carney and Representative Moonen and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Maeghan Maloney, I am the District Attorney for Kennebec and Somerset Counties and the President of the Maine Prosecutors Association (“MPA”) and the President of the Board of the Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center. I am submitting this testimony in support of **LD 2084**—an act to provide funding for essential services for victims of crimes.

Federal money from the Victims of Crime Act is commonly referred to as “VOCA” funding. As can be seen visually in the attached graph, VOCA funding is a tiny fraction of what it used to be. Consequently, VOCA funding to the state of Maine has been dramatically reduced creating a crisis in victim services.

VOCA funding pays for half of the salary for a victim advocate in my office. Without this funding, either county taxpayers will need to pay higher property taxes, or the victim advocate will have to change to a half time position. On January 22, 2024, the Court released statistics on the number of pending criminal cases statewide. There are currently 2,074 pending criminal cases in Kennebec County. There are only three advocates to serve all of the victims and witnesses in all of these cases. Losing half a position will prevent the high quality responsive work that we strive to provide to children and adults during some of the most traumatic days of their lives.

Even more catastrophic, a reduction in funds will hurt, and possibly close, Child Advocacy Centers around our state. Child Advocacy Centers (“CAC”) are a child-friendly locations where children are interviewed by experts in forensic interviewing about allegations of sexual assault. Children no longer have to talk to police officers, and DHHS social workers, and prosecutors—instead there is one video-taped interview by a trained professional. Last year the legislature passed the Child Advocacy Center bill to enable these videos to be played at trial. Losing our CACs would prevent the successful prosecution of child sexual assault.

Thank you for your consideration.

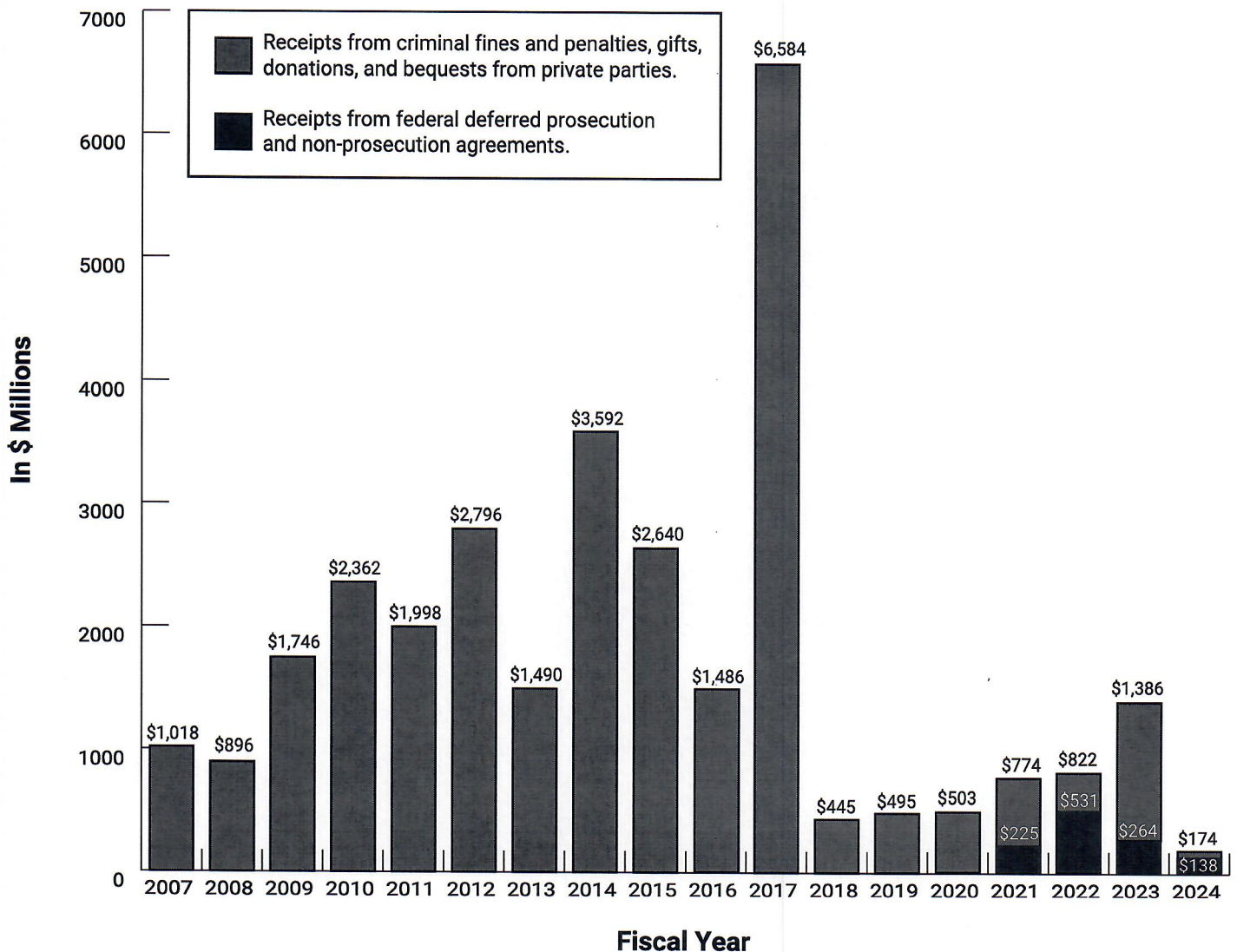
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maeghan Maloney".

Maeghan Maloney  
District Attorney

# FY 2007 – FY 2024 Crime Victims Fund Annual Receipts (\$ Millions)

(as of 11/30/2023)



Administered by OVC, the Crime Victims Fund is a special fund within the Treasury consisting of non-tax revenue (mostly fines, penalties, and bond forfeitures from convicted federal criminals). These receipts are collected through special assessments, criminal fines, and forfeited appearance bonds through the U.S. Attorneys' Offices. Federal revenues deposited into the Fund also come from gifts, donations, and bequests by private parties.

Signed into law on August 22, 2021, the VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021 (VOCA Fix) requires monetary penalties from federal deferred prosecution and non-prosecution agreements to go into the Crime Victims Fund. As of November 30, 2023, the total amounts received from deferred prosecution and non-prosecution agreements were over \$1.1 billion.

This bar graph and more information about the Crime Victims Fund are available through OVC's Crime Victims Fund webpage: <https://ovc.ojp.gov/about/crime-victims-fund>.