



July 17, 2024

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn,

On behalf of the Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA), we are writing to express our steadfast support of the bipartisan Victims' VOICES Act. MCSA is an association of elected Sheriffs representing the Nation's largest counties with populations of 500,000 people or more.

Currently, federal law mandates restitution from convicted offenders to their victims for certain crimes. However, due to judicial interpretations of past laws, proxies of victims have been excluded from receiving restitution. The Victims' VOICES Act seeks to amend the Mandatory Victims Restitution Act to clarify longstanding congressional intent. It aims to ensure that family members, legal guardians, and court-appointed representatives acting on behalf of victims in specific criminal court proceedings receive restitution from convicted defendants. This restitution would cover essential costs such as transportation, lost income, and childcare.

Furthermore, the Victims' VOICES Act clarifies that individuals assuming the rights of victims are eligible to receive restitution for necessary and reasonable expenses related to participating in the investigation or prosecution of the offense, attending proceedings related to the offense, or transporting a victim to receive medical, physical, occupational therapy, rehabilitation, or other services.

We thank you for your leadership in advancing this important legislation through the Senate and look forward to final passage in the House.

Sincerely,

Megan E. Noland
Executive Director
Major County Sheriffs of America