



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: More than 21 million Americans and nearly 150,000 Minnesotans are victims of crime each year, suffering emotional, physical, psychological, and financial harm as a result; and
- WHEREAS: Victim assistance and compensation programs across the country provide vital and supportive services for victims which help individuals, families, and communities cope with the impact of crime; and
- WHEREAS: The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), passed by Congress in 1984, affirmed a national commitment to helping victims rebuild their lives by establishing the Crime Victims Fund, a major source of funding for services and compensation to victims of crime throughout the United States; and
- WHEREAS: The Crime Victims Fund is comprised of fines and penalties levied on offenders and affirms the principle that those who commit crimes should be held accountable for their actions; and
- WHEREAS: The Crime Victims Fund provides support to more than 4,400 state and local victim assistance and victim compensation programs, including rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, victim assistance in law enforcement and prosecutor offices, and other direct service providers that help millions of victims every year. It also provides support for federal victims of crime, child abuse prosecution, assistance to victims of terrorism, and training and technical assistance for the victim services field; and
- WHEREAS: Victim compensation programs pay for medical and counseling costs, funeral bills, crime scene cleanup, and lost wages for victims of crime; and
- WHEREAS: National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 22-28, 2012, provides an opportunity for our state to recognize the Victims of Crime Act as a major bedrock of support for victim services, and to reaffirm our state and nation's commitment to addressing the needs of victims of crime; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota is joining forces with victim services programs, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout America to observe the 28th Anniversary of VOCA during National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of April 22-28, 2012 as:

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

in the State of Minnesota.



Mark Ritchie
SECRETARY OF STATE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 16th day of April.

Mark Dayton
GOVERNOR