



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, New York State has continuously demonstrated a strong commitment to fighting all forms of crime, resulting in historic reductions in crime over the past two decades; and

**Whereas**, the state has long been a leader in the crime victims' rights movement, recognizing that victims of crime must be afforded a voice in the criminal justice system and be treated with dignity, respect, and compassion; and

**Whereas**, as evidence of that leadership, the New York State Office of Victim Services consistently strives to enhance services it provides to crime victims, and its efforts include implementing an online application for compensation that allows the agency to provide help more quickly, and working to create an online system that will provide crime victims' access to civil legal assistance; and

**Whereas**, in 2015, the Office of Victim Services provided nearly \$20 million in compensation to victims and their families, paying for medical bills, counseling, moving expenses, and essential personal property such as eyeglasses and clothing, as well as providing other vital resources of assistance to these individuals in need; and

**Whereas**, New York is the only state in the nation that does not set limitations on reimbursement to crime victims or their family members seeking compensation for medical or counseling costs, with eligible individuals able to receive help as long as they need; and

**Whereas**, in addition to providing financial compensation to victims and their families, the Office of Victim Services supports a network of over 200 victim assistance programs that provide direct services to men, women and children who have been victimized; those services include counseling, transportation, and advocacy, and are available to victims in each of the New York State's 62 counties; and

**Whereas**, the Office of Victim Services currently provides more than \$43 million to those programs and in compensation to crime victims, all at no cost to taxpayers; the agency's funding comes predominantly from fines, mandatory surcharges, and crime victim assistance fees that certain offenders pay after conviction in either New York State or federal court; and

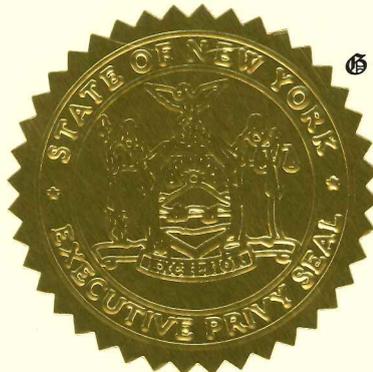
**Whereas**, equally important as the financial assistance it provides is the work the Office of Victim Services does to champion the cause of crime victims' rights; recognizing the importance of advocacy, the Office of Victim Services joins victim assistance programs and communities across the state and country to mark National Crime Victims' Rights Week by hosting events highlighting the importance of victims' rights, supporting courageous individuals who are willing to speak about their experiences so as to educate and empower others, and remembering those whose lives have been altered by crime; and

**Whereas**, by embracing this year's theme of "Serving Victims, Building Trust, Restoring Hope," all New Yorkers can pause to reflect upon ways they can responsibly improve safety in their communities, support those who have been victimized, and help ensure that all crime victims are afforded their rights;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 10 - 16, 2016 as

## CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

in the Empire State.



**G i b e n** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State  
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this eighth day  
of April in the year two thousand sixteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor