



## **2010 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA**

### **TIER I**

#### **Public Policy measures WCCVA will actively support in a lead role**

##### **FUNDING FOR CRIME VICTIM SERVICE CENTERS**

WCCVA will lead efforts to maintain current funding levels for the Crime Victim Service Centers. WCCVA will also support efforts to maintain current funding levels for services to all victims of crime.

##### **PROPOSED COURT RULE ON SUBPOENAS (CrR 4.8)**

WCCVA will continue to work with the Washington State Bar Association on the proposed change to Criminal Court Rule 4.8 (subpoena duces tecum) to ensure that a requirement to notify a victim when records or tangible items belonging to the victim are being sought is included in the rule.

##### **CRIME VICTIM NOTIFICATION**

WCCVA will lead efforts to strengthen notification to victims of crime about their rights under the law.

### **TIER II**

#### **Public Policy measures WCCVA will actively support or oppose**

##### **PRIVACY RIGHTS OF CRIME VICTIMS**

The members of WCCVA believe that victims of crime are private citizens who do not lose their fundamental right to privacy by virtue of becoming a crime victim. It is contrary to the public interest to require that crime victims surrender their privacy rights if they choose to report crimes and participate in the criminal justice system. Therefore, WCCVA will actively support public policy initiatives that uphold victims' privacy rights, and oppose any measure that erode those rights.

##### **COLLECTION OF RESTITUTION AND OTHER LEGAL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS**

Support legislation that strengthens the justice system's ability to collect court-ordered restitution to crime victims and other legal financial obligations. Oppose legislation that weakens the justice system's ability to collect court-ordered restitution to crime victims and other legal financial obligations.

### **VOCA FUNDING-FEDERAL LEVEL**

WCCVA will actively oppose efforts to reduce VOCA funding to crime victim services. WCCVA will monitor and support passage of H.R. 3402 and Senate Companion Bill S. 1340 “**The Crime Victims Fund Preservation Act of 2009**”, sponsored by co-chairs of the Congressional Crime Victims Rights Caucus. (Rep’s Ted Poe and Jim Costa in the House and Sens. Patrick Leahy and Mike Crapo).

### **CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION PROGRAM BENEFITS AND FUNDING**

Strongly oppose elimination or reduction of any Crime Victim Compensation benefits, and support adequate funding to restore all medical and mental health fee schedules to a level commensurate with those paid in industrial insurance claims.

### **CRIMINAL SENTENCING LAWS**

Oppose reduction in seriousness levels for violent crimes and oppose efforts to remove Assault 2 and Robbery 2 from the list of three-strike offenses. Oppose any increase in the amount of credit violent offenders can earn for good behavior while confined.

### **REORGANIZATION OF STATE VICTIM SERVICES**

WCCVA will actively monitor efforts reorganizing state agencies serving crime victims. WCCVA will support reorganization plans that best serve crime victims needs, funding and services.

### **DEPOSITIONS AND RECORDINGS OF INTERVIEWS**

WCCVA believes that victims of crimes should retain the right to consent to the recording of defense interviews. WCCVA will strongly oppose measures reducing a crime victims control over defense interviews and orders for deposition, should a victim/witness refuse to be recorded.

## **TIER III**

### **Issues WCCVA will monitor**

- **PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION EXEMPTION**  
Extend privilege to advocates for crimes other than DV/SA.
- **RANDY’S LAW – RCW 9A.76.070**  
“Rendering Criminal Assistance in the First Degree” – when relatives of an offender (charged with First Degree Murder) are over the age of 18 and render criminal assistance, the crime is a Class C felony rather than a gross misdemeanor. WCCVA will continue to support.
- **GUILTY BUT MENTALLY ILL**  
Continue to support and work with sponsors and WAPA
- **BUDGET CUTS**  
Oppose any cuts affecting crime victim services.

- **ERIN'S LAW**  
Change RCW 68.50.160 to read “a person arrested for or charged with criminal homicide by reason of death of the decedent may not direct the disposition of the decedent’s remains. The disposition of the decedent’s remains shall be made in accordance with the directions of an eligible person within the first applicable class”. Coalition of organizations and individuals supporting this bill is being formed. WCCVA and WSCADV have signed on.
  
- **SUNSHINE COMMITTEE**  
Continue to monitor and oppose any elimination of exemptions affecting crime victims.