



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, New York has continuously demonstrated a strong commitment to fighting all forms of crime and has seen historic reductions in crime over the past two decades, culminating in the lowest crime rate in recorded state history in 2017; and

**Whereas**, the state's commitment extends to crime victims in order to ensure they have a voice in the criminal justice system and are treated with dignity, respect and compassion; and the New York State Office of Victim Services has been an integral part of this commitment, providing a critical safety net for the needs of innocent crime victims and their families for more than a half-century; and

**Whereas**, in 2017, the Office of Victim Services provided over \$21.3 million in compensation which helped more than 11,000 innocent victims of crime and their families pay for medical bills, counseling, moving expenses, and essential personal property; and reimbursed medical providers for the cost of forensic sexual assault exams to assist investigations and ensure privacy for victims; and

**Whereas**, also in 2017, the Office of Victim Services provided approximately \$45.5 million in funding to 223 victim assistance programs that provide critical services to crime victims in all 62 counties throughout the state – all at no cost to taxpayers; the Office's funding is supported almost entirely 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**, the Office of Victim Services recognizes that victims often face psychological, social, and legal barriers — such as isolation, distrust of authorities, language limitations, or cultural boundaries — that prevent them from seeking the assistance they need to recover; to better address the needs of vulnerable populations, the Office sponsored a three-day training conference in 2017 to help hundreds of victim advocates from across the state better connect with crime victims from traditionally underserved sectors of society, including the elderly, members of the LGBTQ community, immigrants, and male victims of sexual abuse; and

**Whereas**, in 2017, New York State further widened the safety net it provides to account for the mental and emotional trauma that crime victims frequently experience by expanding the eligibility for certain losses of non-physically injured victims of hate crimes, the elderly, or disabled who are incapable of caring for themselves; and

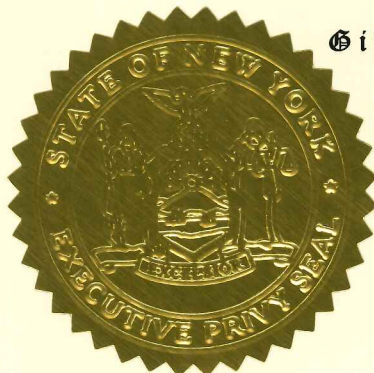
**Whereas**, by embracing this year's national theme of "Expand the Circle: Reach All Victims," New York State reaffirms its dedication to providing vital services and programs that assist victims in the aftermath of a crime; building resilience in its communities and among victim advocates; and ensuring justice for all individuals affected by crime; and

**Whereas**, all New Yorkers join in the observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week and its goals to focus greater attention on the importance of victims' rights, support courageous individuals who are willing to speak about their experiences to educate and empower others, and remember those whose lives have been affected by crime;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 8 - 14, 2018 as

## CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

in the Empire State.



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

Governor

Secretary to the Governor  
Melissa DeRosa