



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 6-12, 2025

### **Crime Victims' Rights Week**

Crime has a lasting impact on all people and communities touched by it, leaving lasting physical, emotional, and social impacts. Each year, California and the nation observe Crime Victims' Rights Week to show support for victims, survivors, and their families and to recognize their right to be supported, heard, and treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.

This week, we honor the resilience and perseverance that launched the victims' rights movement, inspired its progress, and continues to advocate for victims and survivors. Too many victims walk away from the legal system feeling unheard and unsupported. California is working to change that by building bridges between and among survivors and communities, and services and supports.

California has been a national leader in victim services, since 1965, when our state established the first victim compensation program in the nation. Since its inception, the program has provided more than \$2.8 billion to assist victims of violent crime.

In 1988, the Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services (OVSR) was created to help victims' and their families' voices be heard and works directly with victims and survivors. OVSR plays a key role in collecting restitution, and helping victims receive notice and exercise their rights to be involved in hearings or other processes.

California is committed to supporting and empowering victims of crime. I thank all the victim advocates in organizations across the state for their tireless work to help victims and survivors find hope and pathways to healing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", written over a horizontal line.

Gavin Newsom