



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 7-13, 2019

Crime Victims' Rights Week

Crime leaves a lasting impact on any person touched by it. Each year, California and the nation observe Crime Victims' Rights Week to show support for victims and survivors, and to recognize their right to be heard and to be treated with fairness, dignity and respect.

This week, we celebrate the energy, perseverance and commitment that launched the victims' rights movement, inspired its progress and continue to advance the cause of fairness and justice. It is also an opportunity to recommit to ensuring that all victims of crime are offered culturally and linguistically accessible services in the aftermath of crime.

Many victims and survivors of violent crime face tremendous physical, emotional and financial trauma and need the support of victim services to recover. 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 victim compensation program has provided almost \$2.5 billion dollars to assist victims of violent crime.

California is committed to providing the support victims of crime need in their journey toward recovery. I thank all the victim advocates in organizations across the state for their tireless work to help survivors face their grief without fear of judgment, and ensure they are understood, heard and respected.

Sincerely,

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

Gavin Newsom