

Dr. LaShae Sharp- Collins

79th Assembly District



AB 1100: Removing Barriers to Victim's Compensation

SUMMARY

AB 1100 makes changes to eligibility for funds from the Victim's Compensation Board for California Crime Victims. The bill will both increase eligibility, extend benefit timelines and streamline the application to make it easier to receive funds.

BACKGROUND

California is failing to help many victims of violent crimes and is falling behind other states when it comes to smart, survivor-supportive policies that aid in receiving benefits. California is just one of only seven states that denies help to victims because of their status of being on parole. Further, six states, specifically Louisiana, Illinois, Maryland, New Mexico and Oregon, have all enacted legislation to allow expanded access to victim compensation benefits based on the documentation used to prove that an individual was a victim of a crime.

The California Legislature did propose changes in the 2022 budget bill that would have provided benefits for longer to victims who were temporarily unemployed to help supplement lost wages and provide support funds. This unfortunately was not funded and the authorization for this program has since lapsed.

California was the first state in the nation to create a victim compensation program in 1965. Since that time every state has created a similar program, yet California now lags behind in adopting policies to better off victims.

The Biden Administration was working on federal rules that would have made states like California to overturn laws barring help to people with convictions and compelled the state to eliminate victim-blaming restrictions. The Administration unfortunately did not complete this work before 2025. California need not wait for the federal government to act.

THIS BILL

Makes changes to the administration of the Victim's Compensation Fund specifically by:

- Removing eligibility restrictions for victims on probation, parole or with a prior conviction,
- Ensuring that all violent crime victims can use documents other than a police report to prove they were victims of a crime
- Allowing individuals to apply for loss of income or support if the victim was unemployed at the time of victimization but worked in the past year
- Limiting denials of compensation based on perceived victim behavior

SUPPORT

Californians for Safety and Justice

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