



CRIME SURVIVORS FOR
SAFETY AND JUSTICE

13,500 Crime Victims in Florida: CSSJ's 2024 Legislative Agenda

Surveys of crime victims consistently reveal two major findings:

- Most victims do not feel supported by the justice system, and
- A majority of victims prefer to stop crime before it starts rather than simply incarcerating our way to public safety. That means investing in prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation.

CSSJ's Legislative Agenda in Florida for 2024 includes:

Funding for Trauma Recovery Services to Help Crime Victims Heal from Violence

An appropriations request introduced by Rep. Wyman Duggan (R-Jacksonville) and Sen. Tracie Davis (D-Jacksonville) would provide funds to:

- Expand the capacity of Families of Slain Children, Inc. (FOSCI) to break cycles of crime and provide critical emergency assistance and mental health support to victims of violence.
- Allows FOSCI to scale up their mental health offerings, including providing clinical care on-site to crime victims ranging from crisis intervention to ongoing support recovering from trauma.

Providing critical emergency assistance and mental health support to help break cycles of crime is vital to supporting victims of violence to recover from the traumatic effects of victimization while also making communities safer.

Increasing Access to Sealing Low-Level Misdemeanor Records to Help People Get Back to Work

SB 1290 and HB 1039, sponsored by Sen. Tracie Davis (D-Jacksonville) and Rep. LaVon Bracy Davis (D-Orlando), update the options available to those working towards self-improvement, and would:

- Allow court-ordered sealing to first-time non serious misdemeanor convictions.
- Bar the sealing option for those with prior convictions of serious offenses.
- Permit only non-conviction records to be eligible for more than one sealing. Nonviolent conviction records only qualify if it is the first conviction and would be capped at one sealing. judges remain the final say in this eligibility.

Improving access to record sealing will help more people find a path forward and become full community members after completing their sentences. Clear pathways for people with low-level records to reenter the workforce leads to better success for their communities.

Improving Florida's Probation System to Prioritize Safety

SB 1154 and HB 1241, sponsored by Rep. John Snyder (R-Stuart) and Sen. Corey Simon (R-Tallahassee), would improve the state's probation system's treatment of low-level offenses by:

- Establishing a limit on pre-hearing jail time for low-risk technical violations.
- Establishing a limit of 120 days for the second technical violation revocation. The existing cap is 90 days for the first revocation.

Right-sizing penalties for probation violations helps improve the chances of success for those working to give back to their communities and support their families. Crime victims overwhelmingly support this approach to prioritizing safety because what they want is for what happened to them to never happen to anybody else.