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## **DOC Secretary Litscher Commemorates Crime Victims' Rights Week**

MADISON— Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) Secretary Jon Litscher joined criminal justice stakeholders, victim advocates, and others in commemorating Crime Victims' Rights Week, which highlights programs and services available to victims, witnesses, and survivors of crime in Wisconsin.

Governor Scott Walker [proclaimed](#) April 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> as Crime Victims' Rights Week. This week recognizes the rights available to victims, witnesses, and survivors of crime under the Wisconsin Constitution and Chapter 950 of the Wisconsin Statutes, which includes the Crime Victim and Witness Bill of Rights. These protections ensure that crime victims are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect for their privacy. Additionally, state law requires victim input to be considered throughout the criminal justice process and affirms victims' ability to attend court proceedings.

DOC Secretary Litscher said: "Crime affects thousands of Wisconsinites each year. We recognize that providing compassionate support and advocacy for crime victims, witnesses, and survivors is critical to the healing process and making victims whole."

The Department of Corrections' Office of Victim Services and Programs has victim advocates in Madison and Milwaukee who work on behalf of victims who have enrolled to receive information from DOC regarding perpetrators. There are currently 32,000 crime victims enrolled in [VOICE for Victims](#), DOC's victim notification system, which includes 2,458 victims who enrolled in 2016. Once enrolled, victims can receive notifications regarding the release of an offender from a correctional facility, changes in supervision status, changes of address for sex offenders, parole hearing information, revocations, and discharge from supervision.

Members of the public can also enroll in [VINELink](#) to receive information regarding the custody status of offenders in Wisconsin county jails and to be notified when protective orders have been served.

Crime victims and survivors can also choose to participate in restorative justice programming, including victim-offender dialogue, speaking at victim impact classes in correctional facilities, and other speaking opportunities.

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