

# NISKANEN C E N T E R

## CO-SPONSOR THE VICTIM ACT, H.R. 5768

### Communities in Crisis

Homicides have risen sharply in recent years, including a nearly 30 percent one-year increase in the national murder rate in 2020. Clearance rates for homicides have fallen for decades, and clearance rates for non-fatal shootings are even lower. Research shows resources matter for solving violent crimes. The bipartisan Violent Incident Clearance and Technological Investigative Methods Act of 2021 (VICTIM Act) will deliver justice for victims, deter violence, and help victims rebuild their lives after tragedy.

### Investing in Public Safety

The VICTIM Act would authorize \$1 billion - \$100 million in appropriations each year for ten years - to fund grants aimed at improving clearance rates for homicides and shootings by:

- Hiring, training, and retaining detectives.
- Acquiring and upgrading evidence-processing technology or equipment.
- Hiring and training additional evidence-processing personnel.
- Developing evidence-based practices to improve clearance rates.
- Ensuring that shooting victims and family members of homicide victims have access to resources, including timely mental health treatment, grief counseling, funeral and burial expenses, relocation expenses, emergency shelter and transportation, and lost wage assistance.

Additionally, the bill would require specialized data collection related to clearance rates and crime trends, as well as an evaluation of practices that could, if successful, be replicated and scaled nationwide.

### Endorsements

In addition to the Niskanen Center, the VICTIM Act is endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the National Association of Police Organizations, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, and the National Police Foundation.

To cosponsor the VICTIM Act, contact Stuart Styron at [stuart.styron@mail.house.gov](mailto:stuart.styron@mail.house.gov).