

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 7, 2015

Joye E. Frost
Director
Office for Victims of Crime
U.S. Department of Justice
810 Seventh Street NW, Eighth Floor
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Director Frost:

We write to express our strong support for Washington state's grant application through the Office for Victims of Crime's Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program following the tragic shooting at Marysville-Pilchuck High School on Oct. 24, 2014.

The school district faces continuing challenges to address student trauma and disruption to student learning in the aftermath of this tragedy, in which five young people lost their lives. The healing process requires a significant amount of time and resources for the community and the thousands of people affected, including students, family members, faculty and staff, members of the Tulalip Tribe, and first responders.

The district would benefit greatly from increased trauma, crisis response, and suicide awareness training, therapy and support services for students and staff, and the support staff and coordination necessary to facilitate these extra events and activities. The Tulalip Tribe is facing unique challenges in the recovery process, and it is critical to ensure that the community has access to culturally informed support to facilitate recovery and rebuild community ties.

The Marysville, Tulalip, and greater Washington communities immediately stepped up to support to those who were impacted, but their resources are now stretched to capacity as they also work to provide their regular services. Victim Support Services has used its expertise in trauma to provide recovery support, and this grant would allow this organization to significantly expand its work in training, advocacy, and therapy for the community. Marysville Area Crisis Support Services intends to enhance the support it provides to first responders and their families. Local first responder agencies will restore budgets stretched by the emergency response to the crisis. The Marysville Recovery Committee, which has served in a coordinating role, would use the grant to consolidate available information about recovery, making it easier to access.

We appreciate the support our federal grantmaking agencies have shown for the Marysville and Tulalip communities in their time of need, and respectfully request your expeditious attention to

this request. Thank you for your help in supporting the Marysville, Tulalip, and Washington communities as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of this devastating event.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress