



Testimony on H.171 an Act to all expungement under certain circumstances
House Committee on Judiciary
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify about this legislation before your Committee. The Center is in support of this legislation as long as payment of restitution in full is a condition in all circumstances.

Restitution

The Center's Restitution Unit, authorized in 2003 and established in 2004, is charged with collecting restitution owed to victims by criminal offenders and enforcing restitution orders. A 15% surcharge was added to court fines and traffic tickets beginning on July 1, 2003 to capitalize the Restitution Special Fund. The Fund covers the Unit's operational expenses and also provides advances of up to \$5,000 to eligible victims awaiting payment from offenders.

Process

The court sends Restitution Judgment Orders to the Restitution Unit, and the Fund advances are made as allowed by law. The Unit collects from the offender to then reimburse the fund. Where the victim is not eligible for fund advancement, or the order exceeds the \$5,000 cap, the Unit collects on behalf of the victim so that victims do not have to undertake this difficult work on their own.

The Center is supportive of H.171 and encourages the Committee to support this legislation. Thank you.