

**Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**S. 205 - An act relating to criminal and civil surcharges**  
**Chris Fenno, Executive Director**  
**January 9, 2020**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.205 related to criminal and civil surcharges. On behalf of the Center for Crime Victims Services, I appreciate your interest and efforts to review and amend the funding streams for CCVS

While we do support a guaranteed general fund revenue source in the future, in lieu of surcharges (which are less certain from year to year), S.205, as introduced does not guarantee those general funds. Our concern is that, if we pass S.205 as introduced, there will not be a commitment from the administration guaranteeing the funding in five years.

After meeting with stakeholders over the past several months and reviewing a variety of funding options, CCVS supports waiving some surcharges initially, with a review of its financial impact, before waiving all surcharges.

We recommend beginning with waiving the surcharges for the purpose of expungement for those who are unable to pay. Once those are waived, we suggest that the Court Administrator report back to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations the loss of revenue from the surcharges. This will enable us to assess the financial impact on our funding stream. We will also be able to assess whether the Administration will be committed to replacing those funds with general funds.

