



Advocates Call for Less Talk, More Action to Support Sexual Violence Survivors on Denim Day
Survivors tell California leaders, organizations: Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

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SACRAMENTO, CA - Legislators, advocates, and community members gathered at the California Capitol to stand in solidarity with survivors of sexual assault by wearing denim at the California Denim Day Rally. The message to state leadership was clear: fund survivor services.

With the wave of survivors coming forward since the beginning of 2026 to share their stories of experiencing harassment and assault by powerful public leaders and powerful leaders, survivors and the advocates that support them are facing cuts to Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding for states, the backbone for survivors services in California.

Less Talk More Action

With countless statements condemning sexual assault released with every survivor publicly sharing their story, advocates dismissed them as non-actions, especially as this is the third year in a row where they are begging the state for essential crime survivor services funding.

In questioning why survivors have to continue to justify the need to fund life-saving services, Sandra Henriquez, CEO of ValorUS®, called on legislators, saying, "To every legislator who has issued a statement condemning sexual violence: your words mean nothing without action behind them. It is time to move beyond statements and invest in real solutions."

Survivors and advocates from the Ya Basta! Center, VALOR, and other organizations staged a demonstration at the rally to demand not only funding for survivors, but for change. They chanted, "Y la culpa no era mía, ni donde estaba, ni cómo vestía," ("And the fault wasn't mine, nor where I was, nor how I was dressed,") and, "Menos Palabras, Mas Accion" ("Less Talk, More Action").

VALOR, State Legislators, survivors, advocates, and organizations call on Governor Newsom, and all state leaders and organizations to put their money where their mouth is and support \$100 million in Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding, the main source of support for California's essential and life-saving survivor safety net.

Legislators at the rally advocated on behalf of survivors. Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo, CA-40, applauded advocates for their action while challenging the California legislature to support survivor funding, saying, "It is shameful. It is truly shameful that our state is not making the kind of investment every year in making sure that we are undoing this system of rape culture, the system that has allowed and covered up abuse and sexual violence." Senator Rubio additionally called on the legislature to support survivor services, saying, "The reality is, if we

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don't have funding, we cannot provide survivors, we cannot provide the education that is so desperately needed."

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[VALOR](#) is a California-based, national organization and California's sexual assault coalition committed to advancing equity and ending sexual violence. Since our founding in 1980, we have continued to build dynamic relationships across a diverse range of communities, institutions and systems, and mobilize our network of survivors and advocates to influence change. Through leadership, prevention, and advocacy, we are fearlessly pursuing a world free from violence where the dignity of every person is valued and respected.

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