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**COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY STEVE DESCANO ANNOUNCES
FAIRFAX AWARDED \$25,000 IN INAUGURAL WITNESS PROTECTION GRANT PROGRAM**

Fairfax County, VA — Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano announced today that our office has been awarded \$25,000 from [Virginia's Victim Witness Grant Program](#). Funds will be used to provide security and support services for victims and witnesses in criminal trials.

This funding, which CA Descano has been a [vocal proponent](#) of, is part of a brand-new \$1 million grant program distributed by Virginia's Department of Criminal Justice Services.

After Virginia's legislature authorized a witness protection program in 1994, law enforcement officials throughout the state have waited 30 years for funding to be provided to support the services required for the program. With funding finally available for local law enforcement agencies, Fairfax County will be able to provide support services and security for both victims and witnesses. These services are necessary, as victims and witnesses can face logistical barriers to testifying in court or intimidation.

"This isn't a small step forward for community safety – it's a giant leap," CA Descano said. "With our office now able to provide the necessary services to make victims and witnesses feel secure and comfortable coming forward and testifying at trial, we can make great strides in ending the two-tiered system of justice in Virginia."

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