

By Senator Klein

28-1251-98

See HM

1                                   Senate Memorial No. \_\_\_\_

2           A memorial to the Congress of the United

3           States, urging the Congress to act on an

4           amendment to the Constitution of the United

5           States relating to the rights of crime victims.

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7           WHEREAS, in 1988, an overwhelming majority of the

8           citizens of the State of Florida voted to amend the

9           Constitution of the State of Florida to provide that victims

10          of crime or their lawful representatives, including the next

11          of kin of homicide victims, are entitled to the right to be

12          informed of and to be present and to be heard when relevant at

13          all crucial stages of criminal proceedings to the extent that

14          these rights do not interfere with the constitutional rights

15          of the accused, and

16          WHEREAS, in 1982, the President's Task Force on Victims

17          of Crime recommended an amendment to the Constitution of the

18          United States relating to victims' rights, and

19          WHEREAS, at least 28 of the states have now passed

20          amendments to their respective state constitutions in regard

21          to the rights of crime victims, and

22          WHEREAS, an amendment to the Constitution of the United

23          States establishing and protecting the rights of crime victims

24          is an essential step in our efforts to balance the scales of

25          justice, and

26          WHEREAS, under Article V of the Constitution of the

27          United States, amendments to the Constitution of the United

28          States may be proposed by the Congress or, upon the

29          application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the states,

30          the Congress shall call a constitutional convention for the

31          purpose of proposing amendments, and

1           WHEREAS, there is currently before the Congress for  
2 consideration a proposed victims' rights amendment, NOW,  
3 THEREFORE,

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5 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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7           That the Congress of the United States is requested to  
8 act on the proposed victims' rights amendment that is before  
9 it and to submit to the states an amendment to the Sixth  
10 Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

11           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution  
12 be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
13 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
14 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
15 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

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