

By Representative Saunders

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House Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging the Congress to act on an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to the rights of crime victims.

WHEREAS, in 1988, an overwhelming majority of the citizens of the State of Florida voted to amend the Constitution of the State of Florida to provide that victims of crime or their lawful representatives, including the next of kin of homicide victims, are entitled to the right to be informed of and to be present and to be heard when relevant at all crucial stages of criminal proceedings to the extent that these rights do not interfere with the constitutional rights of the accused, and

WHEREAS, in 1982, the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime recommended an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to victims' rights, and

WHEREAS, at least 28 of the states have now passed amendments to their respective state constitutions in regard to the rights of crime victims, and

WHEREAS, an amendment to the Constitution of the United States establishing and protecting the rights of crime victims is an essential step in our efforts to balance the scales of justice, and

WHEREAS, under Article V of the Constitution of the United States, amendments to the Constitution of the United States may be proposed by the Congress or, upon the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the states, the Congress shall call a constitutional convention for the 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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