

By Senator Saunders

25-921-99

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 urged to act
8 on the proposed victims' rights amendment that is before it
9 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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