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House Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to enact a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect the rights of crime victims.

WHEREAS, the rights of a victim of violent crime, being capable of protection without denying the constitutional rights of those accused of victimizing him or her, should not be denied, and

WHEREAS, a victim of a violent crime should have the right to reasonable and timely notice of any public proceeding involving the crime and of any release or escape of the accused, and

WHEREAS, a victim has the right to be included in such public proceeding and to be reasonably heard at public release, plea, sentencing, reprieve, and pardon proceedings, and

WHEREAS, a victim has the right to adjudicative decisions that duly consider the victim's safety, interest in avoiding unreasonable delay, and just and timely claims to restitution from the offender, and

WHEREAS, these rights should not be restricted except when and to the degree dictated by a substantial interest in public safety or the administration of criminal justice or by compelling necessity, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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2004

29 That the Congress of the United States is requested to
30 enact a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United
31 States to protect the rights of crime victims.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
33 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
34 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
35 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
36 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.