

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. J. RES. 129

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect
the rights of crime victims.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 16, 1998

Mr. PAUL introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United
States to protect the rights of crime victims.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the following article is proposed as an amendment
4 to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be
5 valid for all intents and purposes as part of the Constitu-
6 tion when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of
7 the several States within 7 years from the date of its sub-
8 mission by the Congress:

1 “ARTICLE —

2 “SECTION 1. Each victim of a crime of violence shall
3 have the rights—

4 “(1) to reasonable notice of, and not to be ex-
5 cluded from, all public proceedings relating to the
6 crime—

7 “(2) to be heard, if present, and to submit a
8 statement, at all public proceedings to determine a
9 release from custody, an acceptance of a negotiated
10 plea, or a sentence;

11 “(3) to the foregoing rights at a parole proceed-
12 ing that is not public, to the extent those rights are
13 afforded to the convicted offender;

14 “(4) to reasonable notice of a release or escape
15 from custody relating to the crime;

16 “(5) to consideration for the interest of the vic-
17 tim in a trial free from unreasonable delay;

18 “(6) to an order of restitution from the con-
19 victed offender;

20 “(7) to consideration for the safety of the vic-
21 tim in determining any release from custody; and

22 “(8) to reasonable notice of the rights estab-
23 lished by this article.

1 “SECTION 2. Only the victim or the victim’s rep-
2 resentative shall have standing to assert the rights estab-
3 lished by this article.

4 “SECTION 3. Congress shall have power to implement
5 and enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

6 “SECTION 4. The rights established by this article
7 shall apply to all proceedings that begin on or after the
8 180th day after the ratification of this article.

9 “SECTION 5. The rights established by this article
10 shall apply in all Federal proceedings, including military
11 proceedings to the extent that Congress may provide by
12 law, juvenile justice proceedings, and proceedings in any
13 district or territory of the United States not within a
14 State.”.

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