

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. J. RES. 66

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to establish  
and protect the rights of victims of violent crimes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 6, 2007

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

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## JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United  
States to establish and protect the rights of victims  
of violent crimes.

1       *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*  
2    *of the United States of America in Congress assembled*  
3    *(two-thirds of each House concurring therein),* That the fol-  
4 lowing article is proposed as an amendment to the Con-  
5 stitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all  
6 intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when  
7 ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several  
8 States within seven years after the date of its submission  
9 for ratification, and which shall take effect 180 days after  
10 ratification by the required number of States:

## 1                   “ARTICLE—

2       “SECTION 1. Without denying or abridging the con-  
3 stitutional rights of those accused of committing a violent  
4 crime, the rights of victims of violent crime are hereby  
5 established and shall not be denied by any State or the  
6 United States and may be restricted only as provided in  
7 this article.

8       “SECTION 2. A victim of violent crime shall have the  
9 right to reasonable and timely notice of any public pro-  
10 ceeding involving the crime and of any release or escape  
11 of the accused; the right not to be excluded from such  
12 public proceeding; the right reasonably to be heard at pub-  
13 lic release, plea, sentencing, reprieve, and pardon pro-  
14 ceedings; and the right to adjudicative decisions that duly  
15 consider the victim’s safety, interest in avoiding unreason-  
16 able delay, and just and timely claims to restitution from  
17 the offender. These rights shall not be restricted except  
18 when, and to the degree dictated by, a substantial interest  
19 in public safety or the administration of criminal justice  
20 requires such restrictions, or by other compelling neces-  
21 sity.

22       “SECTION 3. Nothing in this article shall be con-  
23 strued to provide grounds for a new trial or to authorize  
24 any claim for damages. Only the victim or the victim’s  
25 lawful representative may assert the rights established by

1 this article, and no person accused of the crime may obtain  
2 any form of relief hereunder.

3       “SECTION 4. Congress shall have power to enforce  
4 this article by appropriate legislation. Nothing in this arti-  
5 cle shall affect the President’s authority to grant reprieves  
6 or pardons.”.

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