

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY REPRESENTATIVE HILFERTY

A RESOLUTION

To recognize April 18-24, 2021, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, being a victim of crime and navigating the criminal justice system can be a frightening and confusing experience; and

WHEREAS, progress in improving the treatment of crime victims has been made through the efforts of thousands of victims and survivors who have turned their own experiences into a force for positive change; and

WHEREAS, through these efforts, victims and survivors ensure that others can receive justice, meaningful assistance, and compassionate treatment before the law; and

WHEREAS, since the passage of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, and through the dedicated work of advocates, lawmakers, and victim service providers, there is a growing array of services and resources available to victims and their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, the rights of crime victims in Louisiana are codified under R.S. 46:1844, which provides for the following rights: to reasonable notice and to be present and heard during all critical stages of pre- and post-conviction proceedings; to confer with the prosecution prior to final disposition of the case; to refuse to be interviewed by the accused or a representative of the accused; to review and comment on any presentence report; to a reasonably prompt conclusion of the case; to seek restitution; and to be informed upon the release from custody or the escape of the accused or the offender; and

WHEREAS, honoring the rights of victims, including the rights to be heard and to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect, and working to meet the needs of crime victims help to rebuild trust in the criminal and social service systems; and

WHEREAS, individuals' trust in the compassion, understanding, and support of their communities is achieved through sustained, deep-rooted, and coordinated outreach; and

WHEREAS, identifying, reaching, and serving all victims of crime, especially those from groups that have less access to healing services and avenues to justice, is essential; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's continued engagement with the challenges faced by victims of crime will ensure that the progress made to date is not lost and that new ground is broken to gain greater justice and healing for all victims; and

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to ensuring that accessible, appropriate, and trauma-informed services are offered to all victims of crime.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize April 18-24, 2021, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week in Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES