

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1178**

---

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Cory Atkins*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to victims rights.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Cory Atkins</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>Christopher G. Fallon</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1178**

By Ms. Atkins of Concord, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1178) of Cory Atkins and others for legislation relative to victims rights. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE  
□ SENATE  
□ , NO. 774 OF 2011-2012.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to victims rights.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 228 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 section 14 the following section:-

3 Section 15. The death of a criminal defendant who is convicted of a criminal offense shall  
4 automatically terminate the right to appeal or any appeal pending of such conviction, and where  
5 such conviction has not been previously vacated or reversed by an order or decision of a court,  
6 the judgment of conviction shall stand.

7 This section shall not preclude the attorney general or district attorney from commencing  
8 an action to vacate the conviction judgment against a deceased defendant in the interest of  
9 justice.