House Engrossed

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HOUSE MEMORIAL 2002

A MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE RIGHTS TO VICTIMS OF CRIME.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

Arizona House Speaker Tobin Andy

To the Congress of the United States:

Your memorialist respectfully represents:

Whereas, criminal defendants are afforded numerous federal rights and procedural protections in the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, victims of crime are not afforded any federal constitutional rights or protections; and

Whereas, the people of this state believe in the individual rights and liberties of all persons and have amended the Constitution of Arizona to provide crime victims with rights, and yet it is clear that without federal constitutional rights, crime victims' rights are less meaningful and enforceable.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, prays:

1. That the Congress of the United States pass House Joint Resolution 106 proposing to the people an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that provides rights to crime victims and that embodies the following principles:

(a) The rights of a crime victim to fairness, respect and dignity.

(b) The right to be informed of and not excluded from any public proceedings relating to the crime.

(c) The right to be heard at any release, plea, sentencing or other such proceeding involving the right of a victim.

(d) The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay.

(e) The right to receive notice of release or escape.

(f) The right to due consideration of the crime victim's safety.

(g) The right to restitution.

2. That any amendment to the Constitution of the United States to establish rights for crime victims grant standing to victims of crime to assert all rights established by the Constitution.

3. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.