



MADD
Activism | Victim Services | Education

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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MADD APPLAUDS CONGRESSMAN STEVE CHABOT FOR INTRODUCING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FOR VICTIMS' RIGHTS

MADD Immediate Past President, Millie I. Webb, Joins Other National Victim Advocacy Leaders In Call for Leveling Scales of Justice

Washington, D.C. (April 10, 2003) – MADD Immediate Past President, Millie I. Webb, joined Congressman Steve Chabot (R-OH) and national victim advocacy leaders at a press conference today to introduce a proposed Crime Victims' Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The House version of the Crime Victims' Rights Amendment mirrors the Senate version, S.J. Res. 1 sponsored by Senators John Kyl (R-AZ) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), and would give crime victims basic rights in the criminal justice system, including the right to be notified, present and heard at their defendants' proceedings.

"As a victim whose rights were denied, I know the pain of not being allowed to speak at an offender's trial," said Webb, MADD immediate past president. "It is time to level the scales of justice. The rights of the accused are protected, and for good reason, but crime victims currently have no constitutional rights."

Millie and her husband were severely burned in a 1971 crash caused by a drinking driver that ultimately killed their daughter Lori and nephew Mitchell and caused their other daughter Kara to be born prematurely and legally blind. The Webb family was never informed of the dates and times of the offender's proceedings and was not allowed to speak at the hearing.

Currently, 32 states have their own victims' rights amendments, however, when in question, defendants' rights always take precedence because only their rights are guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. MADD and other activists across the country are calling Congressional leaders to vote "yes" to this important amendment.

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**MADD APPLAUDS CHABOT AND JOINS LEADERS
IN CALL FOR LEVELING SCALES OF JUSTICE, 2 of 2**

In honor of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, MADD offers victims/survivors an online candlelight vigil at www.madd.org through Saturday, April 12 and the Office of Victims of Crime will hold a National Candlelight Observance tonight at 6:30 p.m. in Washington, D.C.

MADD is part of the National Victims Constitutional Amendment Network (NVCAN) a coalition of groups working for crime victims' rights and in support of the amendment. For more information on the Constitutional Amendment for Victims' Rights, visit the NVCAN Web site at www.nvcn.org or www.nvcap.org. MADD is the largest crime victims' assistance organization in the world. Drunk driving is the nation's most frequently committed violent crime. MADD's mission is to stop drunk driving, support the victims of this violent crime and prevent underage drinking.

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