

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 549

WHEREAS, American citizens have joined together annually for the past 25 years to recognize the needs and rights of crime victims and survivors during National Crime Victims' Rights Week each April; and

WHEREAS, The silver anniversary of this important event provides an opportunity to reflect on the devastating impact of crime and terrorism on victims and on the country, and to strengthen our national resolve to ensure that victims' needs are identified and addressed; and

WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan first declared National Crime Victims' Rights Week in 1981 in order to focus our nation's attention on the plight of crime victims, and since that time the crime victim assistance field has expanded from a handful of programs to include more than 10,000 community-based and justice system programs as well as over 32,000 federal and state statutes that define and protect victims' rights; and

WHEREAS, America, as a nation, and we, as Texans, recognize that justice is not served until crime victims are served, that crime and violence in our state and in our country affect us all, and that victims' rights are a critical component of the principle of "justice for all"; and

WHEREAS, Justice cannot truly be served until all those hurt by crime--our mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, sisters and brothers, and neighbors and friends--are provided support and assistance in the aftermath of victimization; and

WHEREAS, Despite impressive progress in the past 25 years, many challenges remain to ensure that all crime victims and survivors are treated with dignity and respect, that they are recognized as key participants within our systems of justice, and that they are afforded services that offer them help and hope; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of Texas recognize that we serve justice by serving victims of crime and that by helping victims and survivors of crime, we help make our homes, our neighborhoods, our communities, and our entire nation stronger, safer, and more secure; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby recognize the week of April 10 through 16, 2005, as Texas Crime Victims' Rights Week and that victims of crime as well as those who serve them be honored this week and throughout the year.

Whitmire

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 7, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate