



SPONSOR: Sen. Hansen & Sen. Hoffner & Rep. K. Williams
Sens. Brown, Buckson, Gay, Hocker, Huxtable, Lawson,
Lockman, Mantzavinos, S. McBride, Paradee, Pettyjohn,
Pinkney, Poore, Richardson, Sokola, Sturgeon,
Townsend, Walsh, Wilson; Reps. Baumbach,
Briggs King, Chukwuocha, Griffith, Neal, Romer

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31

RECOGNIZING APRIL 23-29, 2023, AS "CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK" IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, crime can leave a lasting impact on any person, regardless of age, national origin, race, creed,
2 religion, gender, sexual orientation, immigration, or economic status; and

3 WHEREAS, the term "victim" is more than just a label and has legal standing and protections that go along with
4 it; and

5 WHEREAS, crime victims' rights acts passed here in Delaware and at the federal level guarantee victims the right
6 to meaningfully participate in the criminal justice process; and

7 WHEREAS, with the unwavering support of their communities and victim service providers behind them, victims
8 and survivors of crime will be empowered to face their grief, loss, fear, anger, and hope without fear of judgment, and will
9 feel understood, heard, and respected; and

10 WHEREAS, serving victims and survivors rebuilds their trust, which in turn restores their hope and supports
11 thriving communities; and

12 WHEREAS, incorporating communities' existing experts and trusted sources of support into efforts to fully serve
13 victims and survivors will develop a criminal justice system response that is truly accessible and appropriate for all victims;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, engaging a broader array of healthcare providers, community leaders, faith organizations, educators,
16 and businesses can provide new links between victims and survivors and services that improve their safety, healing, and
17 access to justice; and

18 WHEREAS, honoring the rights of victims and survivors of crime, including the rights to be heard and treated
19 with fairness, dignity, and respect, and working to meet their needs rebuilds their trust in the criminal justice and social
20 service systems; and

21 WHEREAS, victim service providers and allied professionals can increase access to victim services and
22 compensation in areas that have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by inequality by
23 implementing culturally responsive services; and

24 WHEREAS, Delaware's annual Crime Victims' Rights Week, held in coordination with the National Crime
25 Victims' Rights Week each April, provides an opportunity to recommit to ensure that all victims and survivors of crime,
26 especially those who are challenging to reach or serve, are offered culturally- and linguistically-accessible and appropriate
27 services in the aftermath of crime; and

28 WHEREAS, this commemorative week celebrates the energy, perseverance, and commitment that launched the
29 victims' rights movement four decades ago, inspired its progress, and continues to advance the cause of justice for crime
30 victims; and

31 WHEREAS, the Delaware Victims' Bill of Rights is codified in Chapter 94 of Title 11; and

32 WHEREAS, The General Assembly is dedicated to strengthening victims and survivors in the aftermath of crime,
33 building resilience in Delaware's communities and victim responders, and working toward a better future for all victims
34 and survivors; and

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

37 WHEREAS, the State of Delaware is hereby dedicated to helping crime survivors find their justice by enforcing
38 victims' rights, expanding access to services, and ensuring equity and inclusion for all; and

39 WHEREAS, recognizing Crime Victims' Rights Week reaffirms this State's commitment to creating a victim
40 service and criminal justice response that assists all victims of crime during Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout
41 the year, and expresses our sincere gratitude and appreciation for those community members, victim service providers, and
42 criminal justice professionals who are committed to improving our response to all victims of crime so that they may find
43 relevant assistance, support, justice, and peace.

44 NOW, THEREFORE:

45 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 152nd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of
46 Representatives concurring therein, that April 23-29, 2023, is recognized as "Crime Victims' Rights Week" in the State of
47 Delaware.

SYNOPSIS

This Concurrent Resolution recognizes April 23-29, 2023, as "Crime Victims' Rights Week" in the State of Delaware. The following websites provide more information on Crime Victims' Rights Week and the resources available to victims and survivors of crime:

Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, at <https://dcadv.org>

Delaware Victims' Rights Task Force, at <https://delawarevictimservices.org>.

Author: Senator Hansen