

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 78**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

INTRODUCED JUNE 6, 1996

**By Senators MARTIN, ADLER and MacInnes**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** memorializing the Congress of the United  
2 States to pass an amendment to the Constitution of the United States  
3 establishing the rights of victims of crimes.

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5 **WHEREAS**, In applying and interpreting the vital guarantees of the United  
6 States Constitution that protect all citizens, the criminal justice system has  
7 lost an essential balance; and

8 **WHEREAS**, The criminal justice system has not provided adequate protection  
9 to the innocent, the honest, and the helpless victims of crime; and

10 **WHEREAS**, In 1982 the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime  
11 recommended an amendment to the Constitution of the United States  
12 addressing victims' rights; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Under Article V of the Constitution of the United States,  
14 amendments to the Constitution of the United States may be proposed by  
15 the Congress of the United States or, upon the application of the  
16 legislatures of two-thirds of the states, the Congress shall call a  
17 constitutional convention for the purpose of proposing amendments; and

18 **WHEREAS**, There is currently before the Congress for consideration a  
19 proposed crime victims' rights amendment;

20 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper that this Legislature go on record as urging  
21 the Congress to pass a constitutional amendment to protect the rights of crime  
22 victims and restore balance to the criminal justice system; now, therefore,

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24 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the General*  
25 *Assembly concurring):*

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27 1. The Legislature of this State requests the Congress of the United States  
28 to pass an amendment to the Sixth Amendment of the Constitution of the  
29 United States addressing the rights of victims of crime. The Legislature further  
30 requests the Congress to define the term "victim of a crime" in the proposed  
31 amendment.

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33 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the President of  
34 the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the  
35 Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the General Assembly, shall be

1 transmitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Vice  
2 President of the United States and each member of Congress elected from this  
3 State.

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STATEMENT

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8 This concurrent resolution memorializes the Congress of the United States  
9 to pass an amendment to the Sixth Amendment of the Constitution of the  
10 United States addressing crime victims' rights. The resolution also  
11 memorializes the Congress to define the term "victim of a crime" in the  
12 proposed amendment. The New Jersey Constitution (Article I, para.22) grants  
13 crime victims certain rights and also provides a definition of the term "victim of  
14 a crime."

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19 Memorializes Congress to pass an amendment to the U.S. Constitution  
20 addressing crime victims' rights.