
Introduced by Senator Nielsen

April 20, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 44—Relative to Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 44, as introduced, Nielsen. Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

This measure would declare the week of April 19, 2015, to April 25, 2015, inclusive, as Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Violent crime continues to exist in California, and
2 crime in one part of the state, or crime against one person, affects
3 our entire sense of well-being; and

4 WHEREAS, All Californians are affected by crime, not just the
5 victims of violent crime; and

6 WHEREAS, The most effective aid that can be provided to
7 victims of crime is to prevent crime from happening in the first
8 place; and

9 WHEREAS, Since 1981, National Crime Victims’ Rights Week
10 has raised awareness of the special needs of crime victims; and

11 WHEREAS, This year, the theme for this week is “Engaging
12 Communities. Empowering Victims”; and

13 WHEREAS, 2015 is a landmark year for crime victims and
14 survivors, as well as those who serve them; and

15 WHEREAS, The respect and protection of victims’ rights within
16 the legal process is one of the most critical components of an
17 effective criminal justice system; and

1 WHEREAS, Victims and witnesses of crime require special
2 attention to ensure that they are thoroughly informed about, and
3 effectively participate in, the criminal justice system; and

4 WHEREAS, To the maximum extent allowed by law, victims
5 of violent crime should receive compensation for their losses; and

6 WHEREAS, Each day thousands of victims and witnesses
7 receive assistance from victim support organizations,
8 victim-witness assistance centers, private service providers, and
9 state and local governments; and

10 WHEREAS, The criminal justice system in this state must persist
11 in its effort to better coordinate and improve the quality of services
12 provided to victims and witnesses; and

13 WHEREAS, California citizens enshrined victims' rights in the
14 California Constitution in 1982 through the passage of Proposition
15 8, the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights; and

16 WHEREAS, California citizens reaffirmed and afforded
17 additional rights to victims in the California Constitution and in
18 California law in 2008 through the passage of Proposition 9, the
19 Victims' Bill of Rights Act of 2008: Marsy's Law; and

20 WHEREAS, Each year, the observance of National Crime
21 Victims' Rights Week focuses on the problems confronting victims
22 of crime and the services available to support these victims; and

23 WHEREAS, The remembrances observed during National Crime
24 Victims' Rights Week promote awareness of victims' issues and
25 acknowledge the combined efforts of citizens, the government,
26 and the criminal justice system to improve victims' services in
27 California; now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
29 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby recognizes the
30 week of April 19, 2015, through April 25, 2015, inclusive, as Crime
31 Victims' Rights Week in California; and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
33 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.