

2 **HJM 4020 - H AMD 350 ADOPTED 3-19-97**

3 By Representative Ballasiotes

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5 On page 1, after line 7, strike all material through page 2, line
6 30, and insert the following:

7 "WHEREAS, In applying and interpreting the vital guarantees of the
8 United States Constitution that protects the liberties of all citizens,
9 the criminal justice system has lost an essential balance; and

10 WHEREAS, One violent crime is committed in America every sixteen
11 seconds; and

12 WHEREAS, The criminal justice system has not provided sufficient
13 protection or representation of the innocent, the honest, and the
14 helpless victims of crime; and

15 WHEREAS, With over thirty-five million Americans victimized in the
16 United States each year, crime victims are rapidly becoming a majority;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Crime victims play an indispensable role in bringing
19 offenders to justice, thus preventing further violence; and

20 WHEREAS, As a nation devoted to freedom, liberty, and justice for
21 all, Americans must plant the seeds of justice to restore and protect
22 the rights of those who have been criminally victimized; and

23 WHEREAS, Harvesting justice over the last two decades has been
24 accomplished in part by the millions of survivors of criminal acts,
25 their families, and advocates whose commitment and spirit has
26 persevered while confronting an increasingly violent nation; and

27 WHEREAS, In 1982, the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime
28 recommended an amendment to the Constitution of the United States
29 addressing victims' rights; and

30 WHEREAS, In 1989, the citizens of Washington State adopted an
31 amendment to the state Constitution granting basic and fundamental
32 rights to the victims and families of victims of felony crimes; and

33 WHEREAS, Under Article V of the Constitution of the United States,
34 amendments to the Constitution of the United States may be proposed by
35 the Congress of the United States or, upon the application of the
36 legislatures of two-thirds of the states; and

1 WHEREAS, There is currently before the Congress for consideration
2 a proposed victims' rights amendment to the Constitution of the United
3 States;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists, respectfully request that the
5 Congress adopt the proposed victims' rights amendment to the
6 Constitution of the United States, and that the amendment be submitted
7 to the states for ratification.

8 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
9 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
10 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
11 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the
12 State of Washington."

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