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House of Representatibes COMMONWEALTH ÓF PENNSYLVANIA HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

LABOR RELATIONS EDUCATION, SECRETARY LIQUOR CONTROL CHILDREN AND YOUTH

MEMORANDUM

To:

All Members of the House of Representatives

From:

Representative Patrick Harkins D.J.H.

Date:

February 4, 2011

Subject:

Crime Victims' Rights Week Resolution

In the near future, I plan to re-introduce a resolution designating April 10 through April 16, 2011, as "Crime Victims Rights Week" in Pennsylvania.

Each year an estimated 23 million Americans are victimized by crime, 5.2 million of whom are victims of violent crime. These victims may suffer from emotional, physical, psychological and financial harm as a result of such crime. Since 1981, the federal Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) has coordinated with communities across the nation in observance of "National Crime Victims' Rights Week" in an effort to bolster public awareness about the challenges that crime victims face and to promote justice and healing for all victims of crimes. OVC also raises awareness of the foundation of victims' rights - fairness, dignity and respect - and to recommit to honoring those values by ensuring that all victims are afforded their legal rights and provided with assistance as they face the financial, physical, and psychological impact of crime.

Victim service providers, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout this nation are joining together to observe "National Crime Victims' Rights Weeks." The theme for this year's "Crime Victims' Rights Week" is "Reshaping the future, Honoring the past."

If you would like to join me in honoring crime victims throughout Pennsylvania, please contact Terra Heilman at 717-787-7406 or e-mail theilman@pahouse.net.