

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 785 Session of 2018

INTRODUCED BY DELOZIER, MARSICO, BRADFORD, R. BROWN, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE, CORBIN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DIGIROLAMO, DRISCOLL, DUSH, GREINER, A. HARRIS, HENNESSEY, JAMES, M. K. KELLER, KINSEY, LONGIETTI, MILLARD, B. MILLER, MURT, NEILSON, O'NEILL, OBERLANDER, READSHAW, ROEBUCK, ROTHMAN, RYAN, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHWEYER, SONNEY, STAATS, STEPHENS, TOEPEL, TOOHL, WARD AND WATSON, APRIL 2, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 2, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of April 8 through 14, 2018, as "Crime
2 Victims' Rights Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, In 2015, nearly 845,000 crimes were reported to
4 police in Pennsylvania of which one-third were Part 1 crimes
5 which include murder and non-negligent manslaughter, rape,
6 robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor
7 vehicle theft and arson; and

8 WHEREAS, While this is a slight improvement over the previous
9 year, that means at least 750,000 Pennsylvanians were victimized
10 by crime and more than 300,000 of them were victims of violent
11 crime; and

12 WHEREAS, The General Assembly has repeatedly affirmed that
13 the survivors of crime and their families are no less deserving
14 of justice, rights, resources, restoration and rehabilitation
15 than the violent offenders who victimize them; and

1 WHEREAS, Americans recognize that we make our homes,
2 neighborhoods and communities safer and stronger by serving
3 victims of crime and ensuring justice for all; and

4 WHEREAS, Crime victims play an indispensable role in bringing
5 offenders to justice; and

6 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians are well served by the Office of
7 Victim Advocate which was established by the General Assembly
8 more than 20 years ago to assist crime victims and promote
9 justice and healing for all victims of crimes; and

10 WHEREAS, Over the past two decades, crime victims and their
11 advocates in every county of this Commonwealth have made
12 unparalleled progress toward balancing the scales of justice in
13 the criminal justice system; and

14 WHEREAS, For many years, the Office of Victim Advocate has
15 helped lead communities throughout this Commonwealth in its
16 observance of "National Crime Victims' Rights Week" to bolster
17 public awareness about the challenges that crime victims face
18 and to celebrate the hard-won progress in victims' rights and
19 services; and

20 WHEREAS, Victim service providers, criminal justice officials
21 and concerned citizens throughout this nation are joining
22 together to observe "National Crime Victims' Rights Week"; and

23 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians should be made aware of not only the
24 strides that have been made to serve victims but the range of
25 services that are available should they become a victim;
26 therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
28 week of April 8 through 14, 2018, as "Crime Victims' Rights
29 Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives reaffirm its

- 1 commitment to address victims' rights and criminal justice
- 2 issues through the passage of appropriate legislation.