

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. J. RES. 174

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect the rights of victims of crime.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 22, 1996

Mr. HYDE introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect the rights of victims of crime.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled*
3 *(two-thirds of each House concurring therein),* That the fol-
4 lowing article is proposed as an amendment to the Con-
5 stitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all
6 intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when
7 ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several
8 States within seven years after the date of its submission
9 for ratification:

1 “ARTICLE —

2 “SECTION 1. To ensure that the victim is treated with
3 fairness, dignity, and respect, from the occurrence of a
4 crime of violence and other crimes as may be defined by
5 law pursuant to section 2 of this article, and throughout
6 the criminal, military, and juvenile justice processes, as
7 a matter of fundamental rights to liberty, justice, and due
8 process, the victim shall have the following rights: to be
9 informed of and given the opportunity to be present at
10 every proceeding in which those rights are extended to the
11 accused or convicted offender; to be heard at any proceed-
12 ing involving sentencing, including the right to object to
13 a previously negotiated plea, or a release from custody;
14 to be informed of any release or escape; and to a speedy
15 trial, a final conclusion free from unreasonable delay, full
16 restitution from the convicted offender, reasonable meas-
17 ures to protect the victim from violence or intimidation
18 by the accused or convicted offender, and notice of the
19 victim’s rights.

20 “SECTION 2. The several States, with respect to a
21 proceeding in a State forum, and the Congress, with re-
22 spect to a proceeding in a United States forum, shall have
23 the power to implement further this article by appropriate
24 legislation.”.

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