

104TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. J. RES. 52

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

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 22, 1996

Mr. KYL (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. CRAIG) introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## 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 (two-*  
3   *thirds of each House concurring therein),* That the follow-  
4   ing article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitu-  
5   tion of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents  
6   and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by  
7   the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States with-  
8   in seven years after the date of its submission for ratifica-  
9   tion:

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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