

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 84

BY REPRESENTATIVE EDMONDS

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Designates April 24-30, 2022, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week and April 27, 2022, as a day of prayer for victims of crime in the state

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To recognize April 24-30, 2022, as National Crime Victims' Week and to designate
3 Wednesday, April 27, 2022, as a special day of prayer for victims of crime in the
4 state.

5 WHEREAS, being a victim of crime and navigating the criminal justice system can
6 be a frightening and confusing experience; and

7 WHEREAS, progress in improving the treatment of crime victims has been made
8 through the efforts of thousands of victims and survivors who have turned their experiences
9 into a force for positive change; and

10 WHEREAS, through these efforts, victims and survivors ensure that others receive
11 justice, meaningful assistance, and compassionate treatment before the law; and

12 WHEREAS, since the passage of the Victim of Crime Act of 1984, and through the
13 dedicated work of advocates, lawmakers, and victim service providers, there is a growing
14 array of services and resources available to victims and their loved ones; and

15 WHEREAS, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Crime Data Explorer,
16 in 2020, there were 6,300 violent crime incidents and 32,810 property crime incidents
17 reported by law enforcement in Louisiana; and

18 WHEREAS, the rights of crime victims in Louisiana are codified in R.S. 46:1844,
19 which provides for the following rights: to reasonable notice and to be present and heard
20 during all critical stages of pre- and post-conviction proceedings; to confer with the

1 prosecution prior to final disposition of the case; to refuse to be interviewed by the accused
2 or a representative of the accused; to review and comment on any presentence report; to a
3 reasonably prompt conclusion of the case; to seek restitution; and to be informed upon the
4 release from custody or the escape of the accused or the offender; and

5 WHEREAS, honoring the rights of victims, including the rights to be heard and to
6 be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect, and working to meet the needs of crime victims
7 help to rebuild trust in the criminal justice and social service systems; and

8 WHEREAS, individuals' trust in the compassion, understanding, and support of their
9 communities is achieved through sustained, deep-rooted, and coordinated outreach; and

10 WHEREAS, identifying, reaching, and serving all victims of crime, especially those
11 from groups that have less access to healing services and avenues to justice, is essential; and

12 WHEREAS, Louisiana's continued engagement with the challenges faced by victims
13 of crime will ensure that the progress made to date is not lost and that new ground is broken
14 to gain greater justice and healing for all victims; and

15 WHEREAS, National Crime Victims Week provides an opportunity to recommit to
16 ensuring that accessible, appropriate, and trauma-informed services are offered to all victims
17 of crime; and

18 WHEREAS, by establishing a day of prayer, the Legislature of Louisiana
19 acknowledges the presence of Louisiana's faith community and recognizes the power of
20 prayer for victims of crime, a power that is referenced in the following passage from
21 scripture in 2 Kings 20:5: "I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Now I am
22 healing you."

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
24 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize April 24-30, 2022, as National Crime
25 Victims' Rights Week; and does hereby designate Wednesday, April 27, 2022, as a special
26 day of prayer for victims of crime in the state.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 84 Original

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Edmonds

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