

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 84

BY REPRESENTATIVE EDMONDS

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the rights of crime victims in Louisiana are codified in R.S. 46:1844, which provides for the following rights: to reasonable notice and to be present and heard during all critical stages of pre- and post-conviction proceedings; to confer with the prosecution prior to final disposition of the case; to refuse to be interviewed by the accused or a representative of the accused; to review and comment on any presentence report; to a reasonably prompt conclusion of the case; to seek restitution; and to be informed upon the release from custody or the escape of the accused or the offender; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES