

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023**

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**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF APRIL 23 THROUGH 29, 2023, TO BE "CRIME VICTIMS'  
RIGHTS WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Acosta, Mack, Lawson, Rogers, de la Cruz, Britto,  
McKenney, Gu, and Tikoian

Date Introduced: April 27, 2023

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, A just society acknowledges the impact of crime on individuals, families,  
2 neighborhoods, and communities by ensuring that rights, resources, and services are readily  
3 available to help rebuild the lives of innocent victims or those left behind; and

4           WHEREAS, Rhode Island will always be dedicated to doing whatever it takes to help  
5 crime victims and their families after undergoing a traumatic experience; and

6           WHEREAS, Rhode Island supports victims of crime by treating them with respect and  
7 dignity, listening to them, and matching their needs to appropriate services and support; and

8           WHEREAS, Providing crime victims with knowledge of the rights and resources  
9 available to them strengthens their ability to recover by restoring a sense of self-empowerment;  
10 and

11           WHEREAS, Victims of crime not only face physical and emotional costs, they often  
12 suffer a serious economic toll as well; and

13           WHEREAS, Victims can carry a fiscal burden long after the day a crime occurred,  
14 whether it be medical expenses, crime scene cleanup, the cost of physical re-location, or lost  
15 earnings; and

16           WHEREAS, The Crime Victims Compensation Program – administered by the Office of  
17 the General Treasurer – helps to defer the economic burden on innocent victims that is so often  
18 associated with crime; and

19           WHEREAS, In 2022, the Crime Victims Compensation Program helped over 260 victims

1 and families get back on their feet; and

2 WHEREAS, In 2022, the Crime Victims Compensation Program provided nearly  
3 \$900,000 in financial assistance to victims of crime; and

4 WHEREAS, Legislation introduced at the request of the General Treasurer works to  
5 increase funding for the Crime Victims Compensation Program through a small fee on traffic  
6 violations; and

7 WHEREAS, This Legislation would also expand resources to victims and access to  
8 program funds for sexual assault survivors; and

9 WHEREAS, Obstacles still prevent many victims from receiving meaningful access to  
10 quality, comprehensive services and support; and

11 WHEREAS, Many criminal acts – including rape and sexual and domestic assault – are  
12 often unreported out of a fear of retribution or past negative encounters with the criminal justice  
13 system; and

14 WHEREAS, The Office of the General Treasurer and the General Assembly is  
15 committed to ensuring every innocent victim of crime has access to the resources and services  
16 they need to recover from their ordeals and to regain a feeling of safety; and

17 WHEREAS, The week of April 23 through 29, 2023, is National Crime Victims' Rights  
18 Week, where our nation dedicates itself to strengthening victims and survivors in the aftermath of  
19 crime and expresses its gratitude and appreciation for community members, victims service  
20 providers, and criminal justice professionals who are committed to helping all who have suffered  
21 from criminal acts; now, therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That this the Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby proclaims the  
23 week of April 23 through 29, 2023, to be "Crime Victims' Rights Week" in the State of Rhode  
24 Island. We moreover urge innocent victims of crime to apply for a grant from the Crime Victims  
25 Compensation Program to help defer the cost of crime and convalesce; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
27 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Day One RI, the Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr. Child  
28 Protection Center, Bikers Against Child Abuse of Rhode Island, Sojourner House, and the Rhode  
29 Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

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