

1 SJR75  
2 184659-1  
3 By Senators Holtzclaw, Albritton, Allen, Beasley, Blackwell,  
4 Brewbaker, Bussman, Chambliss, Coleman-Madison, Dial, Dunn,  
5 Figures, Glover, Hightower, Holley, Livingston, Marsh,  
6 McClendon, Melson, Orr, Pittman, Reed, Ross, Sanders, Sanford,  
7 Scofield, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smith, Smitherman, Stutts,  
8 Waggoner, Ward, Whatley and Williams  
9 RFD:  
10 First Read: 06-APR-17

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8 RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK  
9 APRIL 2-8, 2017.

10  
11 WHEREAS, Americans are the victims of more than 20  
12 million crimes each year, affecting individuals and  
13 communities; and

14 WHEREAS, providing victims with knowledge of their  
15 rights and available services further strengthens their  
16 ability to recover by restoring a sense of self-empowerment;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, a trauma-informed response to victims  
19 promotes healing and fosters strength in survivors; and

20 WHEREAS, unaddressed trauma from victimization  
21 weakens the resilience of victims and their communities,  
22 impeding the ability to withstand future trauma; and

23 WHEREAS, victims who feel understood and supported  
24 are more likely to disclose their victimization, seek  
25 services, and participate in the justice process; and

26 WHEREAS, a multidisciplinary response, involving  
27 collaboration among victim service professionals, criminal

1 justice officials, legal professionals, medical and mental  
2 health providers, and community leaders is essential in  
3 reaching and serving all victims, especially those who are  
4 marginalized, have disabilities, or live in remote locations;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, the State of Alabama is home to the  
7 National Children's Advocacy Center, the first in the world,  
8 which has served as a model for the development of more than  
9 1,000 Children's Advocacy Centers throughout the United States  
10 and in 27 other countries throughout the world; and

11 WHEREAS, strengthening the multidisciplinary  
12 response by bringing together diverse skills, perspectives,  
13 and understanding in the service of victims also serves to  
14 build the resilience of responders, by strengthening  
15 confidence in their roles, abilities, and sense of  
16 contribution; and

17 WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April  
18 2-8, 2017, provides an opportunity to recommit to ensuring  
19 that all victims of crime, especially those who prove  
20 challenging to reach or serve, are afforded their rights and  
21 receive a trauma-informed response; and

22 WHEREAS, this body is hereby dedicated to  
23 strengthening victims and survivors in the aftermath of crime,  
24 building resilience in our communities and our victim  
25 responders, and working for justice for all victims and  
26 survivors; now therefore,

1                   BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
2 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we do hereby proclaim April  
3 2-8, 2017, as Crime Victims' Rights Week and reaffirm our  
4 commitment to creating a victim service and criminal justice  
5 response that assists all victims of crime during Crime  
6 Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year.

7                   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we hereby express our  
8 sincere gratitude and appreciation for those community  
9 members, victim service providers, and criminal justice  
10 professionals who are committed to improving the response to  
11 all victims of crime so they may find relevant assistance,  
12 support, justice, and peace.