



The comprehensive resource on domestic violence

4807 Evanswood Drive • Suite 201 • Columbus, Ohio 43229

August 13, 2013

RE: House Joint Resolution 40 Victims Rights Amendment

Dear Honorable Congressman Franks and Honorable Congressman Costa;

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN), Ohio's statewide federally recognized coalition, representing thousands of survivors of domestic violence and the agencies that serve them is in full support of the House Joint Resolution 40 Victims Rights Amendment to the US Constitution.

ODVN is a non-profit organization that advocates for the rights of victims and provides training and technical assistance to ensure an effective response to the needs of domestic violence survivors.

We believe it is critical for victims to have the right of reasonable notice of public proceedings related to the offense, the right to be present at such proceedings and the right to be heard at proceedings affecting their rights, the right to be informed of the release/escape of the accused, the right to have their safety considered, the right to restitution and the right that the proceeding be free of unreasonable delay guaranteed in the US Constitution. Sadly, we know that all too often survivors only understand their lack of rights after they have been a victim of a crime.

There are thirty-three states that already recognize the rights of victims in their state constitution. However, there are still states that have no specific rights for victims and the existing state laws are inconsistent. To provide fairness, respect, dignity and consistency to all victims of crime, it is time that the US Constitution is amended.

We thank you for your sponsorship of this critical amendment and your commitment to victims of crime throughout the United States of America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Neylon", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Nancy Neylon
Executive Director

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