



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

April 30, 2015

Honorable Trent Franks
U.S. House of Representatives
2435 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for H.J. Res 45 – Constitutional Victims' Rights

Dear Representative Franks,

The National Crime Victim Law Institute (NCVLI) supports H.J. Res 45, which would create federal constitutional rights for victims of crime.

NCVLI works to actively promote balance and fairness in the justice system through crime victim-centered legal advocacy, education, and resource sharing. Since 2000, NCVLI has led the effort to protect victims' rights in criminal cases and it continues to be the only national organization focused on victim law.

In 2004 the *Scott Campbell, Stephanie Roper, Wendy Preston, Louarna Gillis, and Nila Lynn Crime Victims' Rights Act (CVRA)* was passed. Hopes were high that the CVRA would finally secure for victims the rights that they deserve. Unfortunately, more than a decade after its passage and clear consensus that victims have legitimate interests in justice, victims continue to be treated as interlopers on the system, relegated to the role of witness to their own victimization. For justice to be true and for our communities to have faith in it, victims and their rights must be protected. A Victims' Rights Amendment to the constitution can achieve this without harming defendants' federal constitutional rights or the public's interest in a fair and just system.

We urge Congress to pass H.J. Res. 45 and move the country to a fairer and more just system.

Sincerely,

Meg Garvin, MA, JD
Executive Director and Clinical Professor of Law