

Support HJRCA1

Marsy's Law: A Constitutional Amendment

To Enforce Crime Victims' Rights

Status: Senate Executive Committee

Sponsors: Representatives Lang (D-16); Fine (D-17); Cabello (R-68); Smiddy (D-71); Mayfield (D-60); Osmond (R-61); Williams (D-11); Welch (D-7); Reboletti (R-45); Jakobsson (D-103); Gabel (D-18); McAsey (D-85); Bost (R-115); Bellock (R-47); Mussman (D-56); Anthony (R-75); Hoffman (D-113); Phelps (D-118); Sandack (R-81); Zalewski (D-23); Harris (D-13); Cassidy (D-14); Kifowit (D-84); Hatcher (R-50); Riley (D-38); DeLuca (D-80); Hurley (D-35); Mitchell (D-26); Scherer (D-96)
Senators Steans (D-7); Noland (D-22); Hunter (D-3); Althoff (R-32)

What Does the Amendment Do?

The HJRCA1 Amendment ensures that victims in Illinois have comprehensive, meaningful and enforceable rights.

Most importantly, HJRCA1 will ensure that victims have “standing,” the right to speak before the court if their right(s) have been violated.

- The victim, prosecuting attorney, or victim’s lawyer may assert those rights in front of the court.
- The victim can now ask the judge to decide if her right(s) have been violated.

Why Was an Amendment Filed?

HJRCA1, House Amendment 1 is agreed language among the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Marsy’s Law for Illinois, Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Office of the Illinois Attorney General, Illinois State’s Attorneys Association, and the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office.

Why Is This Constitutional Amendment Necessary?

Crime victims have had constitutional rights in Illinois since 1992. However, these rights were passed without an enforcement mechanism which means victims had *no remedy* through which to enforce their rights.

In part, HJRCA 1 will ensure that victims will be:

- informed of court proceedings;
- present at trial and at hearings regarding their cases; and
- heard at any court proceeding involving the release, plea or sentencing of the defendant.

HJRCA1 gives **all** victims of violent crime the ability to go to court and ask that any right that is guaranteed by the Illinois Constitution is enforced before, during and after a criminal trial.

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Supporters of Marsy's Law for Illinois

Attorney General Lisa Madigan
Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon
Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez
Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart
Illinois State's Attorneys Association
AIM (Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists)
CAASE - Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation
Chicago Citizens for Change
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
Chicagoland Voice of the Faithful
Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois
Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence
IllinoisVictims.Org
Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
National Crime Victim Law Institute (NCVLI)
National Gun Victims Action Council (NGAC)
National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children, Inc. (POMC)
Prevent Child Abuse Illinois
Project IRENE
Purpose Over Pain
Rainbow PUSH Coalition
Support for Homicide Survivors
Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests (SNAP)
Violence Prevention Center of Southwestern Illinois