

2024 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 33

BY SENATOR CLOUD

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH. Recognizes April 21-27, 2024, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate April 21-27, 2024, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week in Louisiana, and to honor Jody Plauche for his exceptional contributions to the field of violence prevention and his unwavering commitment to advocating for the rights and well-being of crime victims.

WHEREAS, being a victim of crime and navigating the criminal justice system can be a frightening and confusing experience; and

WHEREAS, progress in improving the treatment of crime victims has been made through the efforts of thousands of victims and survivors who have turned their own experiences into a force for positive change, ensuring that others can receive justice, meaningful assistance, and compassionate treatment before the law; and

WHEREAS, since the passage of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, and through the dedicated work of advocates, lawmakers, and victim service providers, there is a growing array of services and resources available to victims and their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, according to the Tulane University-Louisiana Violence Experiences Survey (2023), two-fifths of adults in Louisiana (41%) have experienced sexual violence or harassment in their lifetime and one in nine (11%) have experienced sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, according to the survey, approximately 90% of people who experienced

1 violence never formally reported these assaults, and among those experiencing violence,
2 most reported negative consequences, including feeling anxiety or depression, suicidality,
3 or missing work or school; and

4 WHEREAS, the rights of crime victims in Louisiana are codified at R.S 46:1844,
5 which provides the right to reasonable notice and to be present and heard during all critical
6 stages of pre- and post-conviction proceedings, including: the right to confer with the
7 prosecution prior to final disposition of the case; the right to refuse to be interviewed by the
8 accused or a representative of the accused; the right to review and comment on any
9 presentence report; the right to a reasonably prompt conclusion of the case; the right to seek
10 restitution; and the right to be informed upon the release from custody or the escape of the
11 accused or the offender; and

12 WHEREAS, honoring the rights of crime victims, including the right to be heard and
13 the right to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect, and working to meet victims' needs
14 helps to rebuild their trust in the criminal justice and social service systems; and

15 WHEREAS, individuals' trust in the compassion, understanding, and support of their
16 communities is achieved through sustained, deep-rooted, and coordinated outreach; and

17 WHEREAS, identifying, reaching, and serving all victims of crime, especially those
18 from groups that often have less access to healing services and avenues to justice is essential;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Louisiana's continued engagement with the challenges faced by victims
21 of crime will ensure that the progress made to date is not lost, and that new ground is broken
22 to gain greater justice and healing for all victims; and

23 WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to
24 recommit to ensuring that accessible, appropriate, and trauma-informed services are offered
25 to all victims of crime; and

26 WHEREAS, Jody Plauche, a Baton Rouge native, experienced a harrowing abduction
27 in 1984, which sparked his enduring dedication to advocacy for crime victims; and

28 WHEREAS, a proud graduate of Louisiana State University, he actively contributes
29 to violence prevention efforts and served on the executive board for Men Against Violence;
30 and

