

Senate Resolution No. 2254

BY: Senator SALAZAR

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 21-27, 2024, as Crime Victims' Rights Week in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official weeks set aside to increase awareness of serious issues which affect the lives of New York State residents; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body hereby memorializes Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 21-27, 2024, as Crime Victims' Rights Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week; and

WHEREAS, For the past three decades, Americans have joined together to recognize the needs and rights of crime victims and survivors during National Crime Victims' Rights Week; and

WHEREAS, Every person who is victimized by crime in this country deserves to be treated with dignity and compassion; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 22 million Americans are directly harmed by crime each year, and each crime affects many more family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers; and

WHEREAS, Crime can leave a lasting physical, psychological, emotional, and financial impact on people of all ages and abilities, and of all economic, racial, and social backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, In 1984, the Crime Victims Fund was established by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) to provide a permanent source of support for crime victim services and compensation.

WHEREAS, Today, thousands of victim assistance programs provide help and support to child victims of violence and sexual abuse; stalking victims; survivors of homicide victims; victims of drunk-driving crashes; and victims of domestic, dating, and sexual violence and other crimes; and

WHEREAS, The victim assistance community faces new challenges to reach and serve all victims, including victims of new crimes like cybercrime and crime victims who have may have valid reasons to have not always trusted the criminal legal system, including immigrants, BIPOC youth, individuals involved in sex work, individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning, and individuals who may have been victims of criminal conduct by law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, Important new frameworks and initiatives are being developed and implemented to ensure the availability of comprehensive, culturally relevant, trauma-informed, and restorative services and

treatment to help victims begin healing and to assist communities in maintaining community safety for all, and these new approaches are to be commended and fully supported; and

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 21-27, 2024, provides an opportunity to celebrate the energy, creativity, and commitment that launched the victims' rights movement, inspired its progress, and continues to advance the cause of justice for crime victims; and

WHEREAS, Respect, support, and dignity are basic rights of all those who have been victimized by crime; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 21-27, 2024, as Crime Victims' Rights Week in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.