Assembly Resolution No. 1134

BY: M. of A. Woerner

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 19-25, 2026, 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 citizens of New York State; 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 19-25, 2026, as Crime Victims' Rights Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week; and

WHEREAS, In 1981, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the first National Crime Victims' Rights Week; and

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week challenges the Nation to confront and remove barriers to achieving justice for all victims of crime; and

WHEREAS, For the past four 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 man, woman, and child who is victimized by crime in America deserves to be treated with dignity and compassion; and

WHEREAS, Millions of 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, 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 through fines and penalties paid by convicted federal offenders; and

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 cyber crime and terrorism and victims who have not always trusted the criminal

justice system, including immigrant victims, urban youth, and victims who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning; and

WHEREAS, Important efforts have been implemented to ensure treatment to help victims begin healing; among the volunteers and professionals who work toward this are law enforcement officers, prosecutors, victim service providers, correction officers, parole and probation officers, counselors, physicians, health care professionals, and the many others whose dedication and service to crime victims help lessen trauma and assist in personal recovery; and

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 19-25, 2026, provides an opportunity to recognize the victim's rights movement and reflect on how far we have come in advancing the cause of justice for crime victims; and

WHEREAS, All those who have been victimized by crime have rights-rights to information, rights to notifications, and in some cases, rights to compensation, along with the basic human rights of respect and dignity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 19-25, 2026, 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.