By: Representatives Hines, Bailey, Carlton To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 74

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF APRIL 18 TO APRIL 24, 1 2004, AS MISSISSIPPI CRIME VICTIMS' WEEK AND HONORING CRIME 2 3 VICTIMS AND THOSE WHO SERVE THEM. 4 WHEREAS, we as a nation recognize crime victims' suffering, 5 struggles and loss and value them as our family members and friends, neighbors and coworkers who have been harmed by crime; 6 and 7 8 WHEREAS, we as a state acknowledge crime victims, particularly those victims with disabilities who are more 9 vulnerable to repeated victimization; and 10 WHEREAS, as a state, we also understand the need for 11 12 specialized training and education in serving this segment of our 13 population; and WHEREAS, we as individuals and communities value core rights 14 15 for crime victims that allow them to participate in the justice processes with rights to information, protection, restitution and 16 17 to be heard; and 18 WHEREAS, we value the critical assistance and services that provide for crime victims' basic needs, such as fair treatment, 19 20 dignity, respect and information, and the life essentials, such as 21 safe housing, food, support for their children, transportation, counseling and medical services; and 22 WHEREAS, we value those among us who work on behalf of crime 23 victims to not only improve rights, services and treatment of 24

25 victims of crime, but, also, to build a better and more just 26 community and country; and

WHEREAS, we value our right to be free from violence, to be 27 28 safe in our homes and to live in peace in our communities; and WHEREAS, America as a nation values liberty and justice for 29 30 all, including efforts to protect, enhance and expand crime 31 victims' rights and services; and

32 WHEREAS, America has joined together annually for the past 24 33 years to recognize the needs and rights of crime victims and 34 survivors; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to 35 value crime victims and survivors, and to value justice in our 36 37 nation that includes and involves crime victims:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF 38 39 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we hereby proclaim the week of April 18 to April 24, 2004, to be Mississippi 40 Crime Victims' Week, and honor crime victims and those who serve 41 them during this week and throughout the year. 42

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be 43 44 furnished to the Institute for Disability Studies at the University of Southern Mississippi, the Mississippians for Crime 45 46 Victims' Rights on April 18, 2004, and to members of the Capitol 47 Press Corps.