

By: Senator(s) DeLano, England, Caughman,
Seymour

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 545

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE APRIL 23-29, 2023, AS
2 "NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' WEEK IN MISSISSIPPI" AND TO DESIGNATE
3 FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023, AS A "DAY OF PRAYER FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME
4 IN MISSISSIPPI".

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

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

13 WHEREAS, since the passage of the Victims of Crime Act of
14 1984, and through the dedicated work of advocates, lawmakers, and
15 victim service providers, there is a growing array of services and
16 resources available to victims and their loved ones; and

17 WHEREAS, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's
18 Crime Data Explorer, in 2021 there were 3,434 violent crime



19 incidents reported by 137 law enforcement agencies in Mississippi;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's
22 Crime Data Explorer, in 2021 there were 31,243 property crime
23 incidents reported by 137 law enforcement agencies in Mississippi;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, the rights of crime victims in Mississippi are
26 protected in Mississippi's Constitution, Section 26A(1) "Victims
27 of crime, as defined by law, shall have the right to be treated
28 with fairness, dignity and respect throughout the criminal justice
29 process; and to be informed, to be present and to be heard, when
30 authorized by law, during public hearings"; and

31 WHEREAS, ensuring the rights of crime victims in Mississippi
32 is further detailed in Mississippi's Constitution, Section 26A(3)
33 "(3) The Legislature shall have the authority to enact substantive
34 and procedural laws to define, implement, preserve and protect the
35 rights guaranteed to victims by this section"; and

36 WHEREAS, honoring the rights of victims, including the rights
37 to be heard and to be treated with fairness, dignity and respect,
38 and working to meet their needs rebuilds their trust in the
39 criminal justice and social service systems; and

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



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

46 WHEREAS, Mississippi's continued engagement with the
47 challenges faced by victims of crime will ensure that the progress
48 made to date is not lost, and that new ground is broken to gain
49 greater justice and healing for all victims; and

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

54 WHEREAS, establishing a day of prayer acknowledges
55 Mississippi's faith community and the power of prayer that is
56 critical to providing support for victims of crime, and is rooted
57 throughout scripture, in particular, 2 Kings 20:5, "I have heard
58 your prayer; I have seen your tears. Now I am healing you":

59 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
60 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
61 we do hereby designate April 23-29, 2023, as "National Crime
62 Victims' Week in Mississippi" and designate Friday, April 28,
63 2023, as a "Day of Prayer for Victims of Crime in Mississippi."

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted
65 to the Secretary of State for appropriate distribution and be made
66 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

