

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL
750 FIRST STREET NE SUITE 1100
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002
(202) 326-6259
(202) 349-1922
<http://www.naag.org>

LYNNE M. ROSS
Executive Director

PRESIDENT
Bill Lockyer
Attorney General of California

PRESIDENT-ELECT
William H. Sorrell
Attorney General of Vermont

April 15, 2004

VICE PRESIDENT
Stephen Carter
Attorney General of Indiana

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
W. A. Drew Edmondson
Attorney General of Oklahoma

Honorable Jon Kyl
United States Senate
730 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Kyl and Feinstein:

We, the undersigned Attorneys General, write to express our strong support for your efforts to pass S. J. Res. 1, the proposed amendment to protect the rights of crime victims, and send it to the States for ratification.


As Attorneys General from diverse regions and populations in our nation, we continue to see a common denominator in the treatment of crime victims throughout the country. Despite the best intentions of our laws, too often crime victims are still denied basic rights to fair treatment and due process that should be the birthright of every citizen who seeks justice through our courts. We are convinced that statutory protections are not enough; only a federal constitutional amendment will be sufficient to change the culture of our legal system.

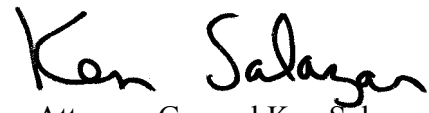
The rights you propose in S. J. Res.1 are moderate, fair, and yet profound. They will extend to crime victims a meaningful opportunity to participate in critical stages of their cases. At the same time, they will not infringe on the fundamental rights of those accused or convicted of offenses. In addition, extending these fundamental rights to victims will not interfere with the proper functioning of law enforcement.


Some have argued that federal constitutional rights of victims will infringe on important principles of federalism, however we respectfully disagree. Each of our state criminal justice systems accommodates federal rights for defendants. To provide a similar floor of rights for victims is a matter of basic fairness.


Please share this letter with your colleagues so that they may know of our strong support for S. J. Res. 1.

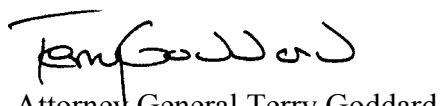
Sincerely,



Attorney General M. Jane Brady
Attorney General of Delaware

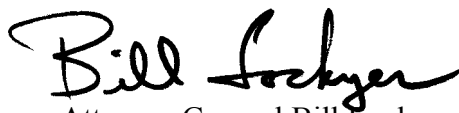

Attorney General Ken Salazar
Attorney General of Colorado



Attorney General Troy King
Attorney General of Alabama

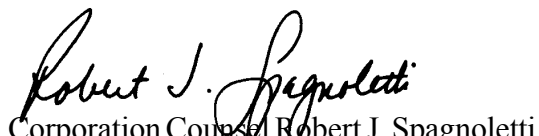

Attorney General Gregg Renkes
Attorney General of Alaska



Attorney General Terry Goddard
Attorney General of Arizona

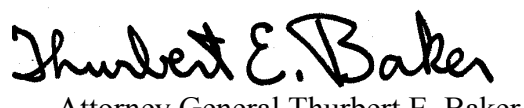

Attorney General Mike Beebe
Attorney General of Arkansas

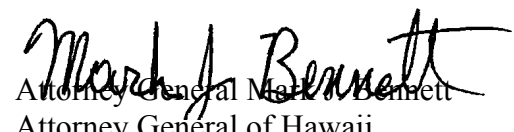

Attorney General Bill Lockyer
Attorney General of California

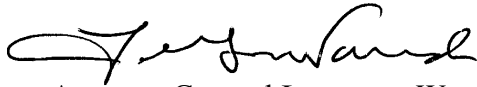

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal
Attorney General of Connecticut


Corporation Counsel Robert J. Spagnoletti
Corporation Counsel of D.C.


Attorney General Charlie Crist
Attorney General of Florida


Attorney General Thurbert E. Baker
Attorney General of Georgia

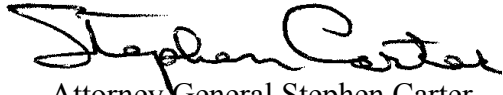

Attorney General Mark A. Bennett
Attorney General of Hawaii



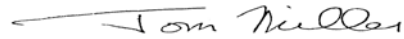
Attorney General Lawrence Wasden
Attorney General of Idaho



Attorney General Lisa Madigan
Attorney General of Illinois



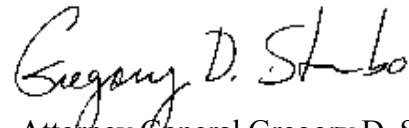
Attorney General Stephen Carter
Attorney General of Indiana



Attorney General Tom Miller
Attorney General of Iowa



Attorney General Phill Kline
Attorney General of Kansas



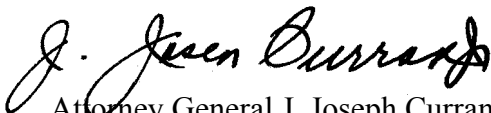
Attorney General Gregory D. Stumbo
Attorney General of Kentucky



Attorney General Charles C. Foti, Jr.
Attorney General of Louisiana



Attorney General G. Steven Rowe
Attorney General of Maine



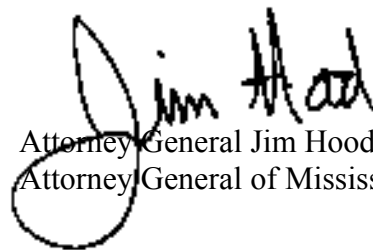
Attorney General J. Joseph Curran, Jr.
Attorney General of Maryland



Attorney General Michael A. Cox
Attorney General of Michigan



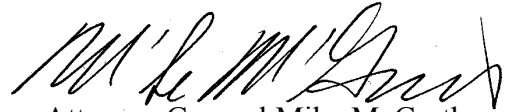
Attorney General Mike Hatch
Attorney General of Minnesota



Attorney General Jim Hood
Attorney General of Mississippi



Attorney General Jeremiah W. Nixon
Attorney General of Missouri



Attorney General Mike McGrath
Attorney General of Montana



Attorney General Brian Sandoval
Attorney General of Nevada



Attorney General Peter W. Heed
Attorney General of New Hampshire




Attorney General Peter C. Harvey
Attorney General of New Jersey



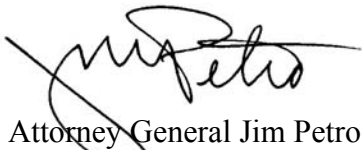
Attorney General Patricia Madrid
Attorney General of New Mexico



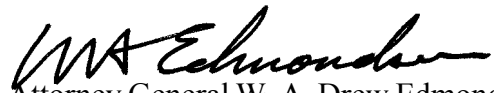
Attorney General Roy Cooper
Attorney General of North Carolina



Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem
Attorney General of North Dakota



Attorney General Jim Petro
Attorney General of Ohio



Attorney General W. A. Drew Edmondson
Attorney General of Oklahoma



Attorney General Hardy Myers
Attorney General of Oregon



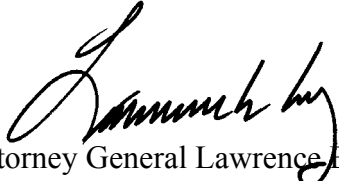
Attorney General Gerald J. Pappert
Attorney General of Pennsylvania



Attorney General Patrick Lynch
Attorney General of Rhode Island



Attorney General Henry McMaster
Attorney General of South Carolina



Attorney General Lawrence E. Long
Attorney General of South Dakota



Attorney General Paul Summers
Attorney General of Tennessee



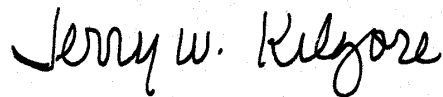
Attorney General Greg Abbott
Attorney General of Texas



Attorney General Mark Shurtleff
Attorney General of Utah



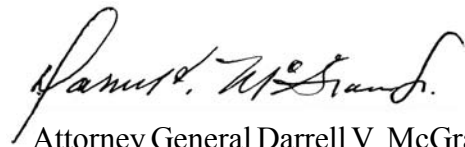
Attorney General Iver A. Stridiron
Attorney General of Virgin Islands



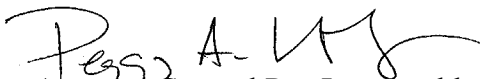
Attorney General Jerry Kilgore
Attorney General of Virginia



Attorney General Christine Gregoire
Attorney General of Washington



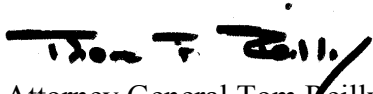
Attorney General Darrell V. McGraw Jr.
Attorney General of West Virginia



Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager
Attorney General of Wisconsin



Attorney General Patrick Crank
Attorney General of Wyoming

Handwritten signature of Tom Reilly in black ink.

Attorney General Tom Reilly
Attorney General of Massachusetts

Handwritten signature of Jon Bruning in black ink.

Attorney General Jon Bruning
Attorney General of Nebraska