

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 135

Senators Santana, Wojno, Brinks, Bayer, McMorrow, Polehanki, Hollier, Bullock, Outman, Huizenga, Nesbitt, Theis, Barrett, VanderWall, Runestad, Chang, Schmidt and Geiss offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to recognize April 28, 2022, as Survivors Speak
2 Michigan Day, a part of National Crime Victims Rights' Week.

3 Whereas, Survivors Speak Michigan is organized by Crime
4 Survivors for Safety and Justice and the Alliance for Safety and
5 Justice; and

6 Whereas, Crime and violence can harm any individual and
7 community, regardless of age, national origin, race, creed,
8 religion, gender, sexual orientation, immigration, or economic
9 status; and

1 Whereas, Most crime survivors do not receive the help they
2 need; and

3 Whereas, Only eight percent of all victims of violence receive
4 direct assistance from a victim service agency. This drops to four
5 percent when the crime is unreported, which is the case for more
6 than half of all violent crimes; and

7 Whereas, Through their experiences, crime survivors are
8 uniquely qualified to provide essential input and influence in
9 discussions of public safety and criminal justice policy; and

10 Whereas, Michigan must address the immediate safety concerns
11 facing families and invest in a long-term, comprehensive plan to
12 address root causes of violence; and

13 Whereas, The voices and experiences of survivors are too often
14 ignored, leading to poor policy and justice system decisions that
15 fail to meet the needs of survivors or stop the cycle of crime; and

16 Whereas, Our state must support trauma recovery centers that
17 play a critical role and resource for survivors impacted by crime;
18 and

19 Whereas, Crime survivors understand existing gaps to recovery
20 and how to bridge them; and

21 Whereas, Survivors want a system of justice and safety that
22 prioritizes prevention, rehabilitation, and trauma recovery; and

23 Whereas, Michigan needs to invest in programs that provide
24 assistance to crime victims and their families to effectively deal
25 with the inherent trauma and residual effects of violence; now,
26 therefore, be it

27 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
28 body recognize April 28, 2022, as Survivors Speak Michigan Day, a
29 part of National Crime Victims Rights' Week; and be it further

1 Resolved, That we commend the survivors and advocates of
2 Survivors Speak Michigan for their work to stop violence and help
3 those impacted by it.