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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 699 Session of 2008

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INTRODUCED BY R. TAYLOR, BRENNAN, CALTAGIRONE, DePASQUALE,  
FRANKEL, GOODMAN, JAMES, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, McCALL, McGEEHAN,  
McILVAINE SMITH, D. O'BRIEN, PALLONE, PASHINSKI, READSHAW,  
REICHLLEY AND SURRA, APRIL 7, 2008

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,  
APRIL 7, 2008

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recommending to the Congress of the United States that the cap  
2 on the Crime Victims Fund be eliminated and that the entire  
3 amount of funds deposited into the fund be distributed  
4 annually.

5 WHEREAS, The Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-473,  
6 42 U.S.C. § 10601 et seq.) established the Crime Victims Fund,  
7 which is one of the main sources of money and support for crime  
8 victims and crime victims services; and

9 WHEREAS, The Crime Victims Fund provides critical funding for  
10 formula grants to states for victim compensation and victim  
11 assistance and for Federal discretionary grants, in addition to  
12 earmarks for Federal victim assistance within the United States  
13 Attorneys' Offices, FBI and Victim Notification System and the  
14 Children's Justice Act; and

15 WHEREAS, State compensation programs pay directly for medical  
16 care, counseling, lost wages and funerals for victims of  
17 domestic violence, child abuse, rape and homicide; and

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1 WHEREAS, State assistance programs provide services,  
2 including crisis intervention, counseling, emergency shelter,  
3 child care and emergency transportation; and

4 WHEREAS, Discretionary grants awarded to organizations fund  
5 demonstration projects, training and other assistance to expand  
6 and improve the delivery of services to crime victims; and

7 WHEREAS, All funds placed in the Crime Victims Fund are  
8 derived from criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalty fees  
9 and special assessments collected by the United States  
10 Attorneys' Offices, the United States courts and the Bureau of  
11 Prisons and does not rely on any tax-generated revenues; and

12 WHEREAS, States may utilize compensation grants and victim  
13 assistance grants over a four-year period, thus enabling them to  
14 plan and manage the distribution of funds over time; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2000, Congress began capping annual spending from  
16 the fund; and

17 WHEREAS, Congress has placed a budgetary cap on the fund for  
18 eight successive years thereby holding back more than  
19 \$1,430,000,000 collected for the fund; and

20 WHEREAS, Congress has repeatedly affirmed that the cap was

21 imposed to ensure that a stable level of funding remains  
22 available for use to fund crime victim programs in future years;  
23 and  
24 WHEREAS, In 2008, spending from the fund is capped at 590  
25 million dollars, 35 million dollars less than in 2007; and  
26 WHEREAS, The fund's balance is currently 2.024 billion  
27 dollars; and  
28 WHEREAS, The Bush Administration's proposed fiscal year 2009  
29 Federal budget would once again cap spending from the fund at  
30 590 million dollars and would rescind the fund's balance of  
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1 2.024 billion dollars to offset spending in other program areas;  
2 and  
3 WHEREAS, A rescission of the fund balance would result in no  
4 available funding for the formula or discretionary grant  
5 programs at the start of fiscal year 2009; therefore be it  
6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
7 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recommend to Congress that the cap  
8 on the Crime Victims Fund be eliminated and that the entire  
9 amount of funds deposited into the fund be distributed annually;  
10 and be it further  
11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
12 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recommend to Congress that they  
13 oppose the Bush Administration's proposal to rescind the Crime  
14 Victims Fund; and be it further  
15 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the House of  
16 Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania transmit  
17 copies of this resolution to the President pro tempore of the  
18 United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of  
19 Representatives, the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation and  
20 the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.