

House Resolution 2149

By: Representative Ralston of the 7<sup>th</sup>

### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing April 18-24, 2010, as Crime Victims' Rights Week at the state capitol; and for  
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, 21 million Americans suffer the indignity of crime each year and may  
4 experience emotional, physical, psychological, and financial harm as a result; and

5 WHEREAS, a just nation acknowledges crime's impact on individuals, families, and  
6 communities, and ensures that victims are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect as they  
7 interact with the criminal justice system; and

8 WHEREAS, 25 years ago, the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime drew attention  
9 to the poor treatment of victims in the criminal justice system, calling it "indifferent" to  
10 victims' needs; and

11 WHEREAS, a decades-long struggle to balance the scales of justice resulted in victims' rights  
12 laws in every state and more than 32 state constitutional victims' rights amendments that  
13 enshrine the ideals of fairness, dignity, and respect for the victims of crime; and

14 WHEREAS, treating victims with dignity serves the public interest by engaging victims in  
15 the justice system, inspiring respect for public authorities, and promoting confidence in  
16 public safety; and

17 WHEREAS, there is more to be done to advance these ideals as too many victims are denied  
18 their right to attend trial, present an impact statement at sentencing, or receive notice of the  
19 release of an offender; and

20 WHEREAS, further action is needed to ensure the fair treatment of crime victims, including  
21 protecting child and sexual assault victims, ordering and ensuring victim restitution from  
22 offenders, and notifying victims of their right to compensation and services; and

23 WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to raise  
24 awareness of the foundation of victims' rights and to ensuring that all victims are afforded  
25 their legal rights and provided with assistance as they face the financial, physical, and  
26 psychological impact of crime; and

27 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that Georgia participate in National Crime  
28 Victims' Rights Week.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
30 the members of this body recognize April 18-24, 2010, as Crime Victims' Rights Week at the  
31 state capitol.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
33 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to members of the public and  
34 the press.