

**A-Engrossed**  
**House Concurrent Resolution 11**

Ordered by the Senate May 24  
Including Senate Amendments dated May 24

Sponsored by Representatives KRUMMEL, MINNIS, Senator COURTNEY; Representatives ACKERMAN, ANDERSON, AVAKIAN, BARKER, BARNHART, BERGER, BEYER, BOONE, BOQUIST, BROWN, BRUUN, BUCKLEY, BURLEY, BUTLER, CAMERON, DALLUM, DALTO, ESQUIVEL, FARR, FLORES, GARRARD, GILMAN, HANNA, HANSEN, HASS, HOLVEY, HUNT, JENSON, KITS, KOMP, KRIEGER, KROPF, LIM, MACPHERSON, MARCH, MERKLEY, MORGAN, NELSON, NOLAN, OLSON, RILEY, ROBLAN, ROSENBAUM, SCHAUFLE, SCOTT, SHIELDS, G SMITH, P SMITH, SUMNER, THATCHER, TOMEI, WHISNANT, WIRTH, WITT, Senators ATKINSON, BATES, BEYER, BROWN, BURDICK, CARTER, DECKERT, DEVLIN, FERRIOLI, GEORGE, GORDLY, JOHNSON, KRUSE, METSGER, MONNES ANDERSON, MORRISSETTE, MORSE, NELSON, PROZANSKI, RINGO, SCHRADER, SHIELDS, B STARR, C STARR, VERGER, WALKER, WESTLUND, WHITSETT, WINTERS (at the request of Crime Victims United)

**SUMMARY**

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Recognizes contributions of Robert Kouns to crime victims' rights in Oregon.

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

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2       Whereas Robert "Bob" Kouns devoted the last 20 years of his life to being an inspirational and  
3 compassionate advocate for the rights of victims of all types of crime from every corner of the state,  
4 as cofounder of Crime Victims United of Oregon with his wife of 47 years, Dee Dee; and

5       Whereas Bob Kouns passed away at his home in Charbonneau on April 29, 2004, at the age of  
6 73 with a strong spirit and sense of humor; and

7       Whereas Valerie McDonald, daughter of Bob and Dee Dee Kouns, was murdered in 1980 at the  
8 age of 26, and her killer has not been brought to justice for that crime; and

9       Whereas in 1983 Bob and Dee Dee Kouns, along with other members of Parents of Murdered  
10 Children, established Crime Victims United as a victims' assistance group and a grassroots move-  
11 ment to advance the rights of crime victims, enhance the safety of all citizens and create a more  
12 balanced criminal justice system in Oregon through statutory and constitutional changes; and

13       Whereas in 1997 the Kouns retired as the leaders of Crime Victims United but remained ac-  
14 tive in campaigns and causes to help raise awareness of the needs of crime victims and volunteered  
15 to bring dignity and respect for victims, living and dead; and

16       Whereas Bob Kouns was a member of the Governor's Special Commission Against Violent  
17 Crime, frequently visited the Lifers Club at the State Penitentiary, spent countless hours testifying  
18 before the Legislative Assembly and worked with numerous criminal justice agencies around the  
19 state; and

20       Whereas Bob and Dee Dee Kouns personally helped many victims of violent crime maneuver  
21 through the complex criminal justice system, offering wisdom and comfort; and

22       Whereas Ballot Measure 8 (1984), which failed by a narrow margin, was sponsored by the  
23 Kouns and Crime Victims United in an attempt to shift the scales of justice, which favored the

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.  
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 rights of the accused over the rights of victims and law-abiding citizens; and

2       Whereas Ballot Measure 10 (1986), called the “Crime Victims’ Bill of Rights,” was sponsored by  
3 the Kouns and Crime Victims United and passed by a three-to-one margin, bringing sweeping  
4 changes to the criminal justice system and opening up court proceedings to crime victims and their  
5 families, giving them a sense of empowerment; and

6       Whereas Ballot Measure 11 (1994) was supported by the Kouns and Crime Victims United and  
7 was adopted by a large majority of Oregon voters, creating a new mandatory minimum sentencing  
8 law that provides tougher penalties for violent crimes; and

9       Whereas Ballot Measure 26 (1996), promoted by the Kouns and Crime Victims United, passed  
10 by a two-to-one margin and changed the principles of the Oregon Constitution that govern laws for  
11 the punishment of crime to “protection of society, personal responsibility, accountability for one’s  
12 actions and reformation”; and

13       Whereas Ballot Measure 40 (1996) and Ballot Measures 69 to 75 (1999) all were backed by the  
14 Kouns and Crime Victims United in an effort to solidify in the Oregon Constitution certain vic-  
15 tims’ rights, ranging from restricting pretrial release to restitution; and

16       Whereas Crime Victims United became a formidable force for victims’ rights in Oregon due in  
17 large part to the vision, expertise, courage and patience of Bob Kouns, who was a tireless leader  
18 in the fight to overhaul sentencing rules, protect the rights of crime victims, increase public safety  
19 and improve the criminal justice system in Oregon; now, therefore,

20 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

21       (1) The Legislative Assembly recognizes Robert “Bob” Kouns as the founding father of crime  
22 victims’ rights in Oregon.

23       (2) The Legislative Assembly expresses its deep condolences to the Kouns family, and joins them  
24 in celebrating Bob Kouns’ extraordinary service to the people of Oregon.

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