

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3031

Introduced by

Representatives Wolf, Boehning, Heller, Mueller, Schneider

Senator Lyson

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to reintroduce the Restitution for Victims of Crime Act
2 to improve the collection of federal court-ordered restitution and other criminal debt and urging
3 the United States Department of Justice to recover court-ordered restitution that is owed
4 innocent victims.

5 **WHEREAS**, victims of crime and their families often face significant challenges trying to
6 rebuild their lives and recover a sense of emotional and financial security after a crime has
7 been perpetrated against them; and

8 **WHEREAS**, victims of federal crimes are entitled by law to full and timely restitution for
9 losses from a convicted offender; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the amount of uncollected federal criminal debt increased from \$6 billion in
11 1996 to over \$41 billion by the end of fiscal year 2005; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the Government Accountability Office found that federal criminal justice
13 officials collected an average of just four cents on every dollar of criminal debt that was owed to
14 crime victims in years 2000, 2001, and 2002; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the Restitution for Victims of Crime Act was introduced in the 109th
16 Congress in the United States Senate by Senators Dorgan and Grassley and others to give
17 Justice Department officials the tools they need to aid in collecting court-ordered federal fines
18 and restitutions; and

19 **WHEREAS**, this legislation will remove many impediments to increased collections and
20 help federal criminal justice officials prevent criminal defendants from spending or hiding their
21 ill-gotten gains and other financial assets by setting up preconviction procedures for preserving
22 assets for victims' restitution; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the Restitution for Victims of Crime Act of 2006 has been endorsed by the
24 United States Attorney for North Dakota and a number of organizations concerned about the
25 well-being of crime victims, including the National Center for Victims of Crime, Mothers Against

1 Drunk Driving, the National Organization for Victims Assistance, the National Alliance to End
2 Sexual Violence, Parents of Murdered Children, Inc., Justice Solutions, the National Network to
3 End Domestic Violence, and the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators;

4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
5 **OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:**

6 That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to
7 reintroduce the Restitution for Victims of Crime Act to improve the collection of federal
8 court-ordered restitution and other criminal debt and urges the United States Department of
9 Justice to recover court-ordered restitution that is owed innocent victims; and

10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
11 resolution to the United States Attorney General and each member of the North Dakota
12 Congressional Delegation.