

**Sixtieth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Wednesday, January 3, 2007**

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3031
(Representatives Wolf, Boehning, Heller, Mueller, Schneider)
(Senator Lyson)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Restitution for Victims of Crime Act of 2006 has been endorsed by the United States Attorney for North Dakota and a number of organizations concerned about the well-being of crime victims, including the National Center for Victims of Crime, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the National Organization for Victims Assistance, the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, Parents of Murdered Children, Inc., Justice Solutions, the National Network to End Domestic Violence, and the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators;

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

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

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

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2007,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State