

Press Release
Crime Victims' Package
April 2003

Assemblymember: New legislation provides support crime victims need

Measures will help victims overcome devastating experiences

The Assembly passed a package of bills **sponsored/supported** by **Assemblymember** (D-**Somewhere**) to better help crime victims and their families recover from their ordeal.

“The week of April 7-11 marks Crime Victims’ Week, a time to promote respect and dignity for millions of victims throughout the country,” **Assemblymember** said. “**My/The Assembly’s** legislative package will give victims the assistance they need as they move toward a recovery.”

Providing crime victims with compensation

To ensure that crime victims are aware of the assistance available to them through the state Crime Victims Board (CVB), **Assemblymember’s/The Assembly’s** legislation requires police officers and district attorneys to provide information about the CVB and its services to victims (A.1739).

“Crime victims often do not know that there is help out there,” said **Assemblymember**. “By creating standard procedures for giving out this information, every crime victim will have access to all of the help available.”

Assemblymember’s/The Assembly’s legislation would also alleviate financial hardships that may be created as the result of a crime by:

- compensating parents who lost wages resulting from caring for a child hospitalized due to a crime (A.3097);
- requiring the CVB to provide a detailed explanation for denying a victim’s claim — to ensure fairness in rewarding compensation (A.2853);
- providing health care institutions with direct reimbursement for sexual assault forensic examinations — removing victims from involvement in the insurance claims process while they are coping with an assault (A.11); and
- expanding the definition of a necessary court appearance to increase coverage of transportation costs for victims (A.4011).

“With all they have to deal with, crime victims shouldn’t have to worry about falling behind on bills or filing the right insurance claims,” said **Assemblymember**. “**My/The Assembly’s** measure would reduce bureaucratic red tape so victims and their families can focus on recovering from their trauma.”

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Educating those who provide assistance to crime victims

To provide members and staff of the CVB with the skills and knowledge needed to work compassionately with victims, **Assemblymember's/The Assembly's** package includes legislation requiring CVB personnel to attend regular training programs (A.1738). The measure would also provide similar sensitivity training to law enforcement officials and providers of victims' assistance services.

“It is important for crime victims to feel comfortable with the people who are supposed to help them through their ordeal,” said **Assemblymember**. “Unfortunately, sometimes crime victims feel a lack of empathy from the very people who are there to help alleviate their trauma. Training programs will humanize crime victims in the eyes of service providers who may have become desensitized and jaded by the nature of their jobs. The most important thing here is to spare already victimized people from further injury.”

Assemblymember's/The Assembly's ongoing efforts to protect New Yorkers from crime

This crime victims' package is part of **Assemblymember's/The Assembly's** ongoing efforts to protect New Yorkers from criminals. **He/She sponsored/supported/The Assembly passed** recent legislation making it a crime to secretly videotape someone in their home (A.4479-A). **Assemblymember also sponsored/supported/The Assembly also passed** a law to protect children from predators by strengthening Megan's Law (Ch. 11 of 2002).