

RELEASE: NH House Passes Meaningful Legislation to Expand the Rights of Crime Victims

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NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE PASSES MEANINGFUL LEGISLATION TO EXPAND THE RIGHTS OF CRIME VICTIMS

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE –Today, the New Hampshire House of Representatives voted today to pass [HB 705](#), legislation to expand and strengthen the rights of crime victims. Prime sponsor of the legislation, **Representative Renny Cushing (D-Hampton)**, released the following statement:

“The work to strengthen the rights of crime victims in New Hampshire has been years in the making, aided by the courageous testimony of victims and advocates. If signed into law, HB 705 would be the most comprehensive enhancement of crime victims’ rights in a generation. Among many notable improvements, HB 705 implements a crime victims’ rights card which will be distributed to victims by first responders, ensuring that they are aware of and can tangibly reference their legal rights and access to services.”

“In addition to increasing awareness, this legislation expands and strengthens domestic violence victims’ protections under the law by including misdemeanor sexual offense and violations of protective orders under the crime victims’ bill of rights. This legislation also provides victims the important right to be notified and participate during legal proceedings which can be critical to a victim’s healing and to their safety.”

“By increasing the cap on assistance for victims of crime to \$40,000, this legislation provides needed relief for victims undergoing massive unforeseen expenses. Crime victims deserve the same protections that the accused are afforded under the law and this legislation aims to make the New Hampshire criminal justice system more equitable and transparent.”

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