



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State has long demonstrated a sustained commitment to fighting all forms of crime, resulting in historic reductions in crime over the past two decades; and

Whereas, the state has been a national leader in the crime victims' rights movement, and central to those efforts is the understanding that crime victims must be treated with dignity, respect, and compassion; and

Whereas, as evidence of that leadership, New York was one of the first states to establish an independent state agency to provide an important safety net for men, women, and children who have been victimized by crime; and

Whereas, in addition to providing compensation to victims, the New York State Office of Victim Services supports a network of 186 programs that provide assistance and support to crime victims and help them rebuild their lives; and

Whereas, in 2013, the New York State Office of Victim Services provided funding to those programs and more than \$22 million in compensation to crime victims and their families; the agency's funding comes entirely from fines, mandatory surcharges, and crime victim assistance fees that certain offenders pay after conviction in either New York State or federal courts; and

Whereas, to recognize the importance of crime victims' rights, communities across America will observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week with the theme of "30 Years: Restoring the Balances of Justice"; and

Whereas, all across New York State, ceremonies and events will be held during National Crime Victims' Rights Week to highlight the importance of victims' rights, to support courageous individuals who are willing to speak about their experiences so as to help educate and empower others, and to remember those whose lives have been altered by crime; and

Whereas, this week gives all New Yorkers the opportunity to reflect upon ways they can responsibly improve safety in their communities, support others who have been victimized, and help ensure that all crime victims are afforded their rights;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 6-12, 2014 as

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at
the Capitol in the City of Albany this second day
of April in the year two thousand fourteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor