

I remember the first year I was in the Legislature we celebrated, nationally, Forgotten Victims' Week. Well, I am happy to say that Nebraska is among the states that has remembered victims and is continuing to remember victims. The theme for this year's celebration is victim justice, a new balance, and I have passed out, in 1983 in response to the demands and the interest for the plight of victims, the Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime was formed, and I passed out a brochure on the NCVC. And, also, I will give you an opportunity to join, I think you all ought to be members of that group to support victims. National Victims' Rights Week started April 21st through the 27th, and as part of the celebration, the Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime in cooperation with the American Association of Retired Persons is presenting a seminar, Communicating With Older Crime Victims, on Wednesday, tomorrow, April 24th at the County Extension Office, 444 Cherrycreek Road, in Lincoln, and the topics to be covered include the demographics of aging, fraud and con games that are targeted against older persons, and assisting the older crime victims. John Bordenet of the Criminal Justice Service section of AARP will be here from Washington, D.C., and will be the main speaker with opening remarks by Nebraska Attorney General Don Stenberg. The seminar begins at eight o'clock and will conclude at three-fifteen. There is a luncheon and a charge. The immediate resolution before us today that requires your support tells a little bit of the statistics of what criminal violence does to victims in Nebraska. Criminal violence victimizes over 34 million Americans yearly, and thousands of Nebraska households. Nebraska crime victims endure the staggering financial, physical, and emotional injuries of crime, as well as the additional costs, and indignities, and frustrations that the criminal justice system causes. And whereas this year we are looking at our elderly population, which is especially vulnerable to abuse, intimidation, and victimization, and while we agree the criminal justice system must remain sensitive to the rights of the accused, it should also assure that the rights of victims and witnesses are protected. And whereas victims and witnesses are entitled to protection, dignity, and, importantly, information about existing programs available in Nebraska which may provide them with assistance. And whereas we have many fellow citizens, who through their work and volunteer services, are committed to bringing about the full measure of dignity, compassion, and justice, which is due all victims of crime. And whereas this Nebraska Legislature has continued and will continue to be concerned with and responsive to the rights of