



National Crime Victims' Rights Week **April 18–24, 2021**

SUPPORT VICTIMS. BUILD TRUST. ENGAGE COMMUNITIES.

The Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan (PAAM) has partnered with The Crime Victim Foundation to host a “virtual” Crime Victim Vigil during National Crime Victim Rights Week, April 18-24, 2021. The hosting of this Vigil is a concrete and visible way to ensure that crime victims are respected and acknowledged in our state. The Vigil also serves as a way to publicly recognize and thank several leaders across our state who work tirelessly to serve the needs of crime victims and survivors. You will be able to see the vigil on Wednesday, April 21 starting at 6:00 pm on the PAAM website www.michiganprosecutor.org and social media page, and shared on other social media platforms by victim organizations

In addition, various prosecuting attorneys' offices and other organizations that work with victims around the state will host or participate in activities to acknowledge National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Efforts include actions to support and highlight the needs of Human Trafficking victims, of families who have lost loved ones due to the commission of a crime, sharing words of crime survivors, and more.

Currently, approximately 200+ victim advocates work in prosecuting attorneys' offices across our state to support crime victims and survivors and to provide crime victims rights under Art 1, Sec. 24 of our Michigan Constitution, as well as the William VanRegenmorter Crime Victims' Rights Act and other statutes and court rules in place. Victim advocates encounter people dealing with anger, trauma, and loss on a daily basis. Crime victims do not choose to be victimized and are often unfamiliar with the criminal justice process. Prosecutor victim advocates assist these crime victims to navigate the criminal justice system with understanding and empathy. Victim advocates connect victims with needed direct services in their communities. Frequently, victim advocates are the first voice a victim encounters when engaging with the court systems and the last voice they engage after a case is concluded. Victim advocates play a key role in supporting victims in Michigan; in building trust in our criminal justice system; and in engaging our communities' supportive organizations.

Thank you to Chairman Filler and the House Judiciary committee for holding this hearing to honor Michigan's victims.