

# Marsy's Law for PA

## Talking Points

**Please contact your local legislator and ask them to vote YES to Marsy's Law with NO AMENDMENTS.**

**When contacting your local legislator by mail or phone, it may be useful to reference these talking points as a guide.**

- Pennsylvania is 1 of only 9 states that does not provide constitutional protections for crime victims.
- While the accused and convicted have numerous rights codified in the Pennsylvania Constitution, crime victims only have statutory protections. This creates an imbalance of justice, because victims have no recourse if their rights are violated.
- Marsy's Law seeks to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to give victims of crime equal rights that are already afforded to the accused and convicted.
- Marsy's Law elevates statutory and common law rights \*already afforded to crime victims\* in Pennsylvania, including the right to:
  - receive information about their rights and available services
  - receive notification of proceedings and major developments in the criminal case
  - receive timely notifications/changes to the offender's custodial status
  - be present at court proceedings
  - provide input to the prosecutor before a plea agreement is finalized
  - be heard at plea, sentencing proceedings or any process that may result in the offender's release
  - restitution
- Marsy's Law DOES NOT diminish the rights of the accused and convicted. Marsy's Law simply gives victims a voice in the criminal justice process, not a veto.
- Marsy's Law is not a partisan issue. Giving crime victims co-equal rights is an issue that Republicans and Democrats are unified in supporting. Marsy's Law passed unanimously in both the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and Senate during the 2017-18 legislative session.  
Marsy's Law is supported by:
  - Pennsylvania Office of the Victim Advocate
  - Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence
  - Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape
  - Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association
  - Pennsylvania State Troopers Association
  - Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association

**For help finding your local representative, please go here:**

**[https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/index.cfm?mobile\\_choice=suppress](https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/index.cfm?mobile_choice=suppress)**

