



Pennsylvania is one of only nine (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.

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 currently 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 is **not a partisan issue**. Giving crime victims co-equal rights is an issue that Republicans and Democrats in **all four caucuses are unified in supporting**. In fact, Marsy's Law **passed unanimously** in both the Pennsylvania House and Senate during the 2017-18 legislative session.

Marsy's Law has **support** from law enforcement, prosecutors and the victim service community, including:

- 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

The Pennsylvania Crime Victims Bill of Rights is good policy, but not sufficient.

Statutory rights are insufficient because victims do not have standing if statutory rights are not enforced. This creates an imbalance of justice, because victims have no recourse if their rights are violated.

Marsy's Law DOES NOT change the victim's role.

The victim will not be a party to the criminal case.

Marsy's Law DOES NOT change the prosecutor's role.

The prosecutor remains in control over the criminal case and makes all the decisions in the prosecution of the crime.

Marsy's Law DOES NOT diminish the rights of the accused and convicted.

Victims' rights will not trump defendants' constitutional rights. Marsy's Law simply gives victims a voice in the criminal justice process, not a veto.