

February 3, 2011

LATE

Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran
Chair, House Committee on Judiciary

Honorable Members
House Committee on Judiciary

IN SUPPORT OF HB 820

My son was murdered by a vicious criminal randomly. My son was at the wrong place at the wrong time. My family has lost a son, nephew, cousin, uncle, friend. As such, I know firsthand what it is like to be a part of the criminal justice system as a part of the victims family.

My name is Remedios Balanon and I am writing in strong support of HB 820 to the bill of rights for victims. This bill allows fair treatment and restitution of victims and to allow pre-sentencing reports relating to the crime when they are available to the defendant.

Victims should be allowed at post-conviction proceedings when release is being considered since the crime and violation of the convicted person affects the lives of the person that they hurt or murdered.

I have personally gone through this particular circuit in the criminal justice system and have felt out of the loop. Allowing the victim, or surviving spouse/family member to be apprised and allowed to have a say in these proceedings will help bring justice and peace to the family and those affected.

As someone who's family member was murdered and have been through the process, I am asking you to please vote in favor of HB 820.

Thank you,
Remedios Balanon