

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 924

To amend title 18, United States Code, to give further assurance to the right of victims of crime to attend and observe the trials of those accused of the crime.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 5, 1997

Mr. MCCOLLUM (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to give further assurance to the right of victims of crime to attend and observe the trials of those accused of the crime.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Victim Allocution Clar-
5 ification Act of 1997”.

1 **SEC. 2. RIGHTS OF VICTIMS TO ATTEND AND OBSERVE**
2 **TRIAL.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 223 of title 18, United
4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the follow-
5 ing:

6 **“§ 3510. Rights of victims to attend and observe trial**

7 “A United States district court shall not order any
8 victim of an offense excluded from the trial of a defendant
9 accused of that offense because such victim may or will—

10 “(1) exercise the right to make a statement or
11 present any information in relation to the sentence
12 at the imposition of sentence; or

13 “(2) testify as to the effect of the offense on
14 the victim and the victim’s family.”.

15 (b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections
16 at the beginning of chapter 223 of title 18, United States
17 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new
18 item:

“3510. Rights of victims to attend and observe trial.”.

19 (c) **EFFECT ON PENDING CASES.**—The amendments
20 made by this section shall apply in cases pending on the
21 date of the enactment of this Act.

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