

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 709**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Cory Atkins*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to victims rights.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Cory Atkins</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/13/2017</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/26/2017</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Marian Ryan (District Attorney)</i>		<i>1/18/2017</i>

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By Ms. Atkins of Concord, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 709) of Cory Atkins and others relative to victims rights. The Judiciary.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1156 OF 2015-2016.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to victims rights.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 228 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 section 14 the following section:-

3 Section 15. The death of a criminal defendant who is convicted of a criminal offense shall  
4 automatically terminate the right to appeal or any appeal pending of such conviction, and where  
5 such conviction has not been previously vacated or reversed by an order or decision of a court,  
6 the judgment of conviction shall stand.

7 This section shall not preclude the attorney general or district attorney from commencing  
8 an action to vacate the conviction judgment against a deceased defendant in the interest of  
9 justice.