

HOUSE FLOOR AMENDMENT

BY REPRESENTATIVE Bradley

1 Amend engrossed joint resolution, page 5, after line 32 insert:

2 "(k) Recognize Carissa Aspnes, a young Colorado woman whose
3 life was permanently altered on March 28, 2025, when she was
4 catastrophically injured in a hit-and-run crash, and acknowledge that
5 although Carissa survived, the independent life she was building--her
6 career, her future family, and her ability to care for herself--was taken
7 from her in a single moment;

8 (l) Affirm that survival alone does not equal justice and that
9 victims who suffer permanent brain injury, lifelong disability, and total
10 loss of independence deserve recognition equal to those whose lives were
11 lost;

12 (m) Recognize that this case exposed serious failures in
13 Colorado's justice system, including the rapid release of a fleeing offender
14 on minimal bond, repeated continuances granted over victim objection,
15 breakdowns in communication between prosecutors and victims'
16 advocates, and sentencing limits that fail to reflect the lifelong
17 consequences imposed on victims when offenders flee the scene;

18 (n) Further recognize that, when criminal proceedings are
19 entangled with a complex immigration system, crime victims may
20 experience additional delays, diminished transparency, and a loss of
21 confidence that accountability will ever be fully realized, compounding
22 the harm already suffered;

23 (o) Declare that Colorado must do better by victims, and express
24 our intent to pursue reforms that place the victim, not the offender, at the
25 center of the justice process, including but not limited to: Ensuring
26 meaningful pretrial accountability in hit-and-run cases involving severe
27 bodily injury, including higher bond considerations and victim input
28 before release decisions are made; treating flight from the scene of a
29 crash involving serious injury as strong evidence of flight risk; preventing
30 excessive continuances that delay justice for permanently injured victims
31 and their families; reexamining sentencing structures so that lifelong
32 injury and permanent disability are met with proportionate consequences;
33 strengthening investigative authority when impairment by alcohol or
34 controlled substances is reasonably suspected; improving coordination
35 between state and federal authorities when felony criminal conduct
36 intersects with immigration proceedings; guaranteeing that victims are
37 fully informed, heard, and accounted for in all proceedings, including
38 restitution determinations; and ensuring accountability for all individuals
39 who aid or conspire in fleeing the scene of a serious crime; and

40 (p) Dedicate this resolution to Carissa Aspnes and to all Colorado
41 crime victims whose lives have been permanently changed, affirming that
42 a justice system that minimizes harm, delays accountability, or sidelines
43 victims has lost sight of its most basic duty."

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