



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

October 8, 1999

S.J. Res. 3
**Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to
protect the rights of crime victims**

As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on October 4, 1999

S.J. Res. 3 would propose amending the Constitution to protect the rights of crime victims. The legislatures of three-fourths of the states would be required to ratify the proposed amendment within seven years for the amendment to become effective. By itself, this resolution would have no impact on the federal budget. If the proposed amendment to the Constitution is approved by the states, this could result in additional costs for the federal court system. CBO does not expect any additional costs would be significant because the amendment would apply to crimes of violence, which are rarely federally prosecuted. Because enactment of S.J. Res. 3 would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

S.J. Res. 3 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. In order for the amendment to become part of the Constitution, three-fourths of the state legislatures would have to ratify the resolution within seven years of its submission to the states by the Congress. However, no state is required to take action on the resolution, either to reject it or to approve it.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Lanette Keith (for federal costs) and Lisa Cash Driskill (for the state and local impact). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.