

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Susan C. Fargo

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to victims rights.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Susan C. Fargo

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Third Middlesex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
In the Year Two Thousand and Nine
—————

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 section 14
2 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

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