

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY TIMELINE

Linda Walls — Pioneer in Anti-Stalking & Crime Victims' Rights Legislation

****SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS****

Following personal tragedy in December 1989, Linda Walls transformed her experience into pioneering advocacy that helped reshape victim safety statutes in Illinois. Her public testimony and direct outreach served as key catalysts for two foundational state laws:

1. ****1992 Illinois Anti-Stalking Law (House Bill 3090 / Public Act 87-870)**** — Landmark legislation making stalking a felony and granting law enforcement early-intervention authority.
2. ****1994 Crime Victims' Rights Protections (725 ILCS 5/115-17a)**** — Statutory updates shielding victims from post-conviction defense subpoenas and unauthorized access to personal advocate records.

****VERIFIED CHRONOLOGICAL TIMELINE****

* ****December 09, 1989:**** Domestic violence tragedy occurs, highlighting critical gaps in law enforcement's authority to intervene prior to physical violence.

* ****December 12, 1991:**** Linda Walls delivers public testimony at a state domestic violence hearing in Aurora at the invitation of Illinois Attorney General Roland Burris. Her account directly inspires Burris to establish the state's Women's Advocacy Division.

* ****February 28, 1992:**** Sends formal correspondence to U.S. Assistant Attorney General Robert S. Mueller, urging federal statutory attention to stalking patterns and victim rights gaps.

* ****March 1992:**** Delivers legislative testimony in Springfield supporting Illinois House Bill 3090.

* ****May 21, 1992:**** AG Roland Burris cites Linda's loss and advocacy at a state news conference during the legislative push for HB 3090.

* ****July 12, 1992:**** Governor Jim Edgar signs Public Act 87-870 into law, enacting one of the nation's earliest and strongest anti-stalking statutes.

* **July 1994:** Advocacy contributions support expanded procedural protections under 725 ILCS 5/115-17a, establishing shields against subpoena abuse targeting crime victims and witnesses.

****CONTACT & ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTATION****

* **Official Website:** lindawalls.com

* **Direct Email:** lindawalls4@gmail.com | linda@lindawalls.net