



International Cruise Victims Association, Inc.

December 13, 2012

Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs
Department of the House of Representatives
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Re: Submission from International Cruise Victims Association

My name is Kendall Carver and I currently serve as Chairman of International Cruise Victims Association, Inc. (ICV). We are pleased that Mark Brimble is on the Executive Committee of ICV and head of International Cruise Victims of Australia.

International Cruise Victims is an organization formed by victims of various crimes on cruise ships. This organization started officially on January 1, 2006 with just four families coming together. Since that time, ICV has members and registered friends in 24 countries around the world and has become the voice for victims of crimes on cruise ships.

Through the extensive work of Mark Brimble and others, we are pleased that hearings have been scheduled to review the need for legislation similar to that which ICV sponsored here in the United States known as the Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act of 2010.

In the United States five congressional hearings were held. I had the privilege of testifying at all of those hearings along with other members of our organization. Many of the issues you face are similar to the issues here in the states. The enclosed document is the actual testimony and supporting materials I used in the hearing chaired by Sen. John Kerry on June 19th, 2008. We are of the opinion that this indicates the issues which need to be addressed in your hearings as well.

Even though ICV is a group with no paid staff, only volunteers, after those hearings Sen. John Kerry in the Senate and Rep. Doris Matsui in the house introduced for the first time in the world major legislation to address the issues of crimes on cruise ships. Congress was left with no choice but to move forward after the cruise industry failed to agree to any voluntary changes in their practices regarding the issue of crimes onboard cruise ships.

The U.S. legislation is now referred to as the CVSSA. In spite of the cruise industry's concerted effort to avoid requirements such as those imposed by this historic legislation, it passed in both the U. S. House and Senate with only four votes against it.

Associate Member of



Submission 012

Having been one of the founders of ICV, this has been a difficult journey. However, I along with others in our group including Mark Brimble have faced serious issues with this industry and the passion of the victims has driven this process forward.

The Australian media has also reviewed and taken on the issue of crimes on cruise ships. As an example, both 60 Minutes of Australia and Dateline of Australia have addressed these issues this year with major shows. Having discovered ICV and the role we played in addressing the issue of crimes on cruise ships, I was pleased to have them come to the United States and interview me to bring these issues to the forefront. These two shows can be viewed on our website home page.

While the attached testimony refers to only U. S. victims, in fact there are many victims around the world who participate in ICV. I am also attaching four victim's stories from Australia.

Cruise ship crime is a worldwide problem. Currently most cruise ships are flagged in various third world countries that can ill afford to take action when crimes occur. ICV is dedicated to putting laws in place throughout the world which address these issues.

For your information, Victim Support Europe has made ICV an associate member. This organization is the umbrella organization for all major victim groups in the EU and we are the only member based in the United States. In addition, the World Society of Victimology invited ICV to their world wide meeting in The Hague this year to lead a panel discussion on this issue and their Executive Committee has taken official action to support ICV in our efforts to put in place the necessary laws. William O'Donnell, from Australia, is one of the members of the Executive Committee of that group.

We commend you for taking the steps to move forward in consideration of this matter and would be honored to be able to share our knowledge of this process.

Very Sincerely Yours,

Kendall Carver
Chairman
International Cruise Victims Association, Inc
International Cruise Victims Association of the UK, LLD

www.internationalcruisevictims.org