

International Cruise Victims



International Cruise Victims (ICV) is an international organization with members throughout the world, currently represented by over 20 countries. Under the ICV International News Section, many stories will be found in the original language. Google can be used to translate many of these articles into English or whatever you use.

Status of Proposed Legislation to Protect Cruise Ship Passengers

In a previous ICV update on July 24, 2014, we advised you of a special Senate Commerce Committee hearing which featured victims of crime on cruise ships. The purpose of this hearing was to give voice to the nightmarish circumstances these victims have endured which might otherwise have never seen the light of day. Today we want to update you as to the status of this legislation.



An extensive article dated **Sep 18, 2014** appeared in the **Washington Post** titled, **[“Are Cruise Lines Doing Enough to Protect Their Passengers?”](#)** It indicated the following:

“Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-W.Va.), who’s chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, is trying to incorporate parts of the bill’s language into an upcoming Coast Guard reauthorization bill. That follows a Senate hearing this summer in which passengers testified about the



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lack of consumer protections.”

Senator Rockefeller’s determination to include provisions which would increase cruise line accountability and improve passenger safety in the Coast Guard reauthorization bill shows how dedicated he is to moving our legislation forward in spite of the Cruise Industry’s efforts to avoid any and all such regulations.

Currently, the cruise lines must report alleged crimes to the FBI but that information is not made publicly available like land based crime statistics are here in the United States. This legislation seeks to remedy that. Contrast that now with the cruise industry’s on-going effort to avoid public disclosure by contributing thousands of dollars to Senate committee members as their leverage to have Senate members support their position.

We are clearly in a battle with a powerful industry. ICV hasn’t the means to compete with the thousands of dollars being used by the cruise lines; what we do have however is the truth...and the determination that that truth should bring change in the form of justice to victims of crime on cruise ships.

Margaret Mead, the famous American cultural anthropologist once said, *“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”*

And the change we seek must come about in the [Commerce Committee](#). Even though the Senate is in recess you can help this ICV group of committed citizens by contacting the Senator’s offices and asking them to support Sen. Rockefeller’s efforts to bring about change, justice and the disclosure of crimes on cruise ships.

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