

As Introduced

**130th General Assembly
Regular Session
2013-2014**

S. C. R. No. 8

Senator Hite

Cosponsors: Senators Balderson, Beagle, Jones, Lehner, Seitz, Smith

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate the month of April as Forgotten Victims 1
of Crime recognition month in Ohio. 2

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING):

WHEREAS, Ohio has the seventh largest prison population in 3
the United States, with more than 48,800 men and women 4
incarcerated in Ohio's prison system; and 5

WHEREAS, Between 1991 and 2007, the number of children who 6
had an incarcerated parent increased by 80%. One out of every 28 7
children has a parent who is incarcerated. Approximately seven in 8
ten women under correctional sanctions have minor children under 9
the age of 18 and approximately five in ten men under correctional 10
sanctions have minor children. On average, for every female 11
prisoner, 2.4 children become invisible, forgotten victims. For 12
every male prisoner, an average of 2.0 children become forgotten 13
victims. Since incarceration rates are higher for males than for 14
females, up to 90% of the children who have an incarcerated parent 15
are socially fatherless; and 16

WHEREAS, Imprisonment disrupts positive, nurturing 17
relationships, particularly between mothers and their children; 18
and 19

WHEREAS, Parental incarceration is associated with greater risk that a child will experience material hardship and family instability; and

WHEREAS, Children of incarcerated parents face many problems typical to at-risk youth (lack of positive role models, unstable home life, poverty, poor school performance), including being five to six times more likely than peers to be incarcerated themselves, more likely to abuse substances and engage in antisocial behavior, more likely to drop out of school, run away, and become homeless, more likely to suffer from a negative self image, fear, anxiety, anger, resentment, and sadness, more likely to have high levels of truancy, physical aggression and disruptive behavior, and more likely to be traumatized by separation, stigmatized by shame of having a parent in prison; and

WHEREAS, Intervening in the lives of incarcerated parents and their children to preserve and strengthen positive family connections can yield positive societal benefits in the form of reduced recidivism, reduced crime through less intergenerational criminal justice system involvement and promotion of healthy child development; and

WHEREAS, Several studies have found that maintenance of family ties during incarceration is linked to post-release success, defined as lower rates of recidivism and fewer parole violations; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the citizens of Ohio to encourage strong families, especially among Ohio's incarcerated population whenever possible; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 130th General Assembly, recognizing the adverse impacts upon children of incarcerated parents, designate the month of April as Forgotten Victims of Crime Recognition Month and encourage all citizens of the state of

Ohio, along with all state and local agencies that interact with	51
the families of incarcerated Ohioans, to join with the General	52
Assembly in acknowledgement and support of the families and	53
children of incarcerated Ohioans; and be it further	54
RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly	55
authenticated copies of this resolution to the news media of Ohio.	56