

**As Reported by the House Judiciary Committee**

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

**S. C. R. No. 8**

**Senator Hite**

**Cosponsors: Senators Balderson, Beagle, Jones, Lehner, Seitz, Smith,  
Schaffer, LaRose, Bacon, Brown, Burke, Cafaro, Coley, Eklund, Faber,  
Gardner, Gentile, Jordan, Kearney, Manning, Obhof, Oelslager, Patton,  
Peterson, Sawyer, Schiavoni, Skindell, Tavares, Turner, Uecker, Widener  
Representatives Butler, Stinziano, Celebrezze, Pillich, Winburn**

---

**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 20  
risk that a child will experience material hardship and family 21  
instability; and 22

WHEREAS, Children of incarcerated parents face many problems 23  
typical to at-risk youth (lack of positive role models, unstable 24  
home life, poverty, poor school performance), including being five 25  
to six times more likely than peers to be incarcerated themselves, 26  
more likely to abuse substances and engage in antisocial behavior, 27  
more likely to drop out of school, run away, and become homeless, 28  
more likely to suffer from a negative self image, fear, anxiety, 29  
anger, resentment, and sadness, more likely to have high levels of 30  
truancy, physical aggression and disruptive behavior, and more 31  
likely to be traumatized by separation, stigmatized by shame of 32  
having a parent in prison; and 33

WHEREAS, Intervening in the lives of incarcerated parents and 34  
their children to preserve and strengthen positive family 35  
connections can yield positive societal benefits in the form of 36  
reduced recidivism, reduced crime through less intergenerational 37  
criminal justice system involvement and promotion of healthy child 38  
development; and 39

WHEREAS, Several studies have found that maintenance of 40  
family ties during incarceration is linked to post-release 41  
success, defined as lower rates of recidivism and fewer parole 42  
violations; and 43

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the citizens of Ohio 44  
to encourage strong families, especially among Ohio's incarcerated 45  
population whenever possible; now therefore be it 46

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 130th General Assembly, 47  
recognizing the adverse impacts upon children of incarcerated 48  
parents, designate the month of April as Forgotten Victims of 49  
Crime Recognition Month and encourage all citizens of the state of 50  
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