

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The adult female population in prisons in the
3 State of Illinois was 2,892 in 2000, a 161.2 percent increase
4 over the past ten years; and

5 WHEREAS, Of this population less than 30 percent of these
6 female prisoners were incarcerated for committing violent
7 crimes; and

8 WHEREAS, Cook County Jail currently houses about 1,200
9 women on any given day, and of this population approximately
10 90 percent are charged with non-violent crimes; and

11 WHEREAS, In prisons in the State of Illinois, 80 percent
12 of women are mothers and almost 50 percent have children
13 under five years of age; and

14 WHEREAS, Each year at least 25,000 children in the State
15 of Illinois are impacted by maternal incarceration; and

16 WHEREAS, An estimated 80 percent of all incarcerated
17 women in the State of Illinois suffer from substance abuse
18 problems; the State of Illinois can place only 12 percent of
19 all incarcerated women into its substance abuse programs; and

20 WHEREAS, It is a known fact that drug addiction causes
21 crime, destroys the family structure, creates havoc in
22 neighborhoods, and leaves paths of destruction in its wake;
23 individuals convicted of crimes who have not received
24 meaningful treatment while incarcerated continue to commit
25 crimes; and

26 WHEREAS, Community-based alternatives to incarceration
27 for women convicted of non-violent offenses would allow
28 children to stay with their mothers while their mothers
29 receive appropriate treatment; with the appropriate treatment
30 the mothers would be less likely to commit additional

1 offenses and would be able to re-enter society as tax-paying
2 citizens; in addition, their children would be less likely to
3 become the next generation of incarcerated individuals;
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
6 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we recognize May 14, 2001 as Mothers in Prison, Children in
8 Crisis Day in the State of Illinois; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to Chicago Legal Aid to Incarcerated Mothers
11 (C.L.A.I.M.).