



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The adult female population in prisons in the  
3 State of Illinois was 2,806 in 2004, a 154 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 over 1,300 women  
9 on any given day and, of this population, approximately 90  
10 percent are charged with non-violent crimes; and

11 WHEREAS, In prisons in the State of Illinois, 82 percent of  
12 women are mothers and almost 50 percent have children under  
13 five years of age; and

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

16 WHEREAS, In the State of Illinois, at least 60,000 minor  
17 children will have their mothers spend time in a State prison  
18 while they are children; and

19 WHEREAS, An estimated 80 percent of all incarcerated women  
20 in the State of Illinois suffer from substance abuse problems;  
21 the State of Illinois can place fewer than 20 percent of all  
22 incarcerated women into its substance abuse programs; and

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

1           WHEREAS, In the United States, by mid-year of 2003, the  
2 number of adult female inmates rose 6.3 percent over the  
3 previous year; and

4           WHEREAS, Community-based alternatives to incarceration for  
5 women convicted of non-violent offenses would allow children to  
6 stay with their mothers while their mothers receive appropriate  
7 treatment; with the appropriate treatment, the mothers would be  
8 less likely to commit additional offenses and would be able to  
9 re-enter society as tax-paying citizens; in addition, their  
10 children would be less likely to become the next generation of  
11 incarcerated individuals; therefore, be it

12           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
13 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
14 we recognize May 6, 2005, as Mothers in Prison, Children in  
15 Crisis Day in the State of Illinois; and be it further

16           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
17 presented to Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers  
18 (CLAIM) .