STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 1006 By: Nations

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution to support families of incarcerated offenders; requesting support for research and development of services for families; requesting services for education about the legal process for families; requesting educational and psychological services for children of incarcerated offenders; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, approximately 2 million Americans are now incarcerated in state or federal prisons or local jails, and 3.5 million more are supervised as conditions of probation or parole; and

WHEREAS, nearly 1.5 million children nationwide have at least one parent incarcerated in a state or federal prison, and another 600,000 have parents who are being held in local jails; and

WHEREAS, research suggests that offenders and their families face complex and often severe psychological, medical, educational, economic, social, and spiritual challenges; and

WHEREAS, children with incarcerated mothers and fathers are at a very high risk of a variety of emotional and behavioral problems because these children experience the stress of separation from their parent, the stigma associated with having an imprisoned parent, the loss of emotional support, their fear for the safety of their parent, and the uncertainty or confusion about what has happened to their parent; and

WHEREAS, children whose parents are incarcerated may be more likely to live in poverty and experience other family disruptions,

including separation from their siblings, placement in foster care, or changes in their caregivers; and

WHEREAS, children with incarcerated parents are six times more likely than their peers to become criminally involved and incarcerated during their own lives; and

WHEREAS, families of incarcerated offenders typically receive few services and often lack basic support and information as they deal with the prosecution, punishment, and return of the incarcerated offender.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 50TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Mentoring Children of Prisoners in Oklahoma Program has the potential to make a dramatic difference in the lives of children and youth of incarcerated offenders.

THAT the partnership of faith-based organizations, mentoring organizations, civic organizations, educational institutions, prison ministry, and others will strive to increase the success of children and youth whose parents are incarcerated.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to groups entering into this partnership.

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