



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, all New Yorkers have a shared concern for our youth who face challenging and difficult circumstances that impact their sense of safety, well-being, pride, self-esteem and, especially, their feeling of being loved and cared for; of particular concern are those youth with an incarcerated parent, and we recognize that it can be a life-altering experience for them, with profound and lasting effects; and

Whereas, in the United States, one in 28 children have an incarcerated parent on any given day, which translates into 2.7 million children nationwide, and approximately 10 million children have experienced parental incarceration at some point in their lives; in New York State, it is estimated that 105,000 children have a parent who is in prison or jail at any one time; and

Whereas, moreover, the statistics reflect a disconcerting level of racial and ethnic disparity among incarcerated populations, with one in nine (11.4%) African America children having an incarcerated parent, one in 28 (3.5%) Hispanic children having an incarcerated parent, and one in 57 (1.8%) white children having an incarcerated parent; and

Whereas, there are 1.1 million fathers of minor children who are incarcerated and the number of incarcerated mothers with minor children has tragically doubled over the past 25 years, to 120,000 women; and

Whereas, children with fathers who have been incarcerated are significantly more likely to be suspended from school in comparison to other children – 23 percent versus 4 percent; and

Whereas, children with an incarcerated parent more often experience teasing, bullying, ridiculing, and stereotyping at school, have lower self-esteem, and are stigmatized by their peers and adults; and

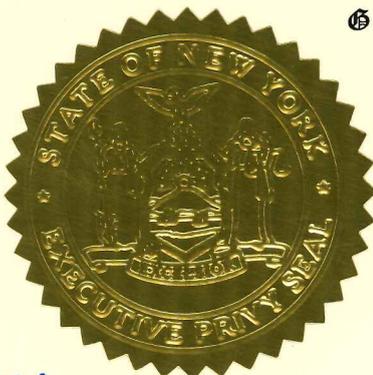
Whereas, children with incarcerated parents are at twice the risk for mental health problems compared to the general population of youth, and they report feelings of loss, isolation, and shame; and

Whereas, like all youth, children of incarcerated parents thrive and succeed when provided with appropriate supports and opportunities; and the New York State Council on Children and Families helps to coordinate efforts to achieve the collective vision of its member agencies – that all children, youth, and families in New York State will be healthy and have the knowledge, skills, and resources to succeed in a dynamic society; we join in working toward this mission, including efforts that seek to ensure the health, well-being, and positive future outcomes for children of incarcerated parents;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim October 2016 as

“SEE US, SUPPORT US” MONTH

in the Empire State, and commend this meaningful and worthy campaign to increase the visibility of children of incarcerated parents, to lessen the stigma they face, and to promote their success in life.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this first day
of October in the year two thousand sixteen.

Governor

Walter J. Munkon
Secretary to the Governor