

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 980 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY CEPHAS, READSHAW, MURT, NEILSON, KINSEY, FRANKEL,
SOLOMON, THOMAS, J. HARRIS, W. KELLER, DONATUCCI, SCHWEYER,
DALEY, GILLEN, M. QUINN AND McCLINTON, JUNE 18, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JUNE 18, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing concern over the surging rate of female incarceration
2 in this Commonwealth.

3 WHEREAS, From 1980 to 2014, the number of women incarcerated
4 in Federal, State and local correctional institutions across the
5 United States skyrocketed more than 700%; and

6 WHEREAS, Nationally, 65 out of every 100,000 women were
7 incarcerated in 2014, with 41 out of every 100,000 Pennsylvania
8 women behind bars; and

9 WHEREAS, Eighty-two percent of women are incarcerated for
10 nonviolent offenses, 32% for property offenses, 29% for drug
11 offenses and 21% for public order offenses; and

12 WHEREAS, An estimated 80% of incarcerated women are mothers;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Research has shown that incarcerating a woman who is
15 responsible for heading a household can lead to irreparable
16 setbacks for her family; and

17 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is part of the national trend in rising

1 female incarceration, having more than 2,600 female inmates in
2 2017; and

3 WHEREAS, Female offenders in this Commonwealth who are
4 sentenced to State confinement are housed at the State
5 Correctional Institution at Muncy and the State Correctional
6 Institution at Cambridge Springs; and

7 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth's female inmate population at
8 those facilities has grown twice as fast as the overall adult
9 prison population since 2000, jumping 74% while the overall
10 increase was only 36%; and

11 WHEREAS, We must acknowledge that the increasing number of
12 incarcerated women may cause a lasting negative impact on
13 families and communities Statewide; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives express concern
15 over the surging rate of female incarceration in this
16 Commonwealth.