
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 330 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY WATERS, COHEN, BISHOP, CLAY, DONATUCCI, V. BROWN,
FARINA, MIRABITO, YOUNGBLOOD, KORTZ, BROWNLEE AND
CALTAGIRONE, MAY 17, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MAY 17, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Department of Corrections to consider establishing
2 the Fathers and Children Together (FACT) Program at every
3 State Corrections Institution in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, Every day more than 500,000 fathers are in prison
5 and half of these men have children under 18 years of age; and

6 WHEREAS, More than 2 million children in the United States,
7 including 30,000 in the City of Philadelphia, have a parent in
8 prison; and

9 WHEREAS, Studies have shown that children who have an
10 incarcerated parent are seven times more likely to end up in
11 prison themselves; and

12 WHEREAS, Sixty percent of the 35 lowest-performing schools in
13 the City of Philadelphia are in neighborhoods with the highest
14 rate of incarcerated adult males; and

15 WHEREAS, High school dropouts are eight times more likely to
16 be incarcerated than students who graduate; and

17 WHEREAS, Nearly 70% of all people confined in prisons across
18 the United States dropped out of high school; and

1 WHEREAS, One out of every three African-American males and
2 one out of every six Latino males born today will end up in
3 prison at some point in his lifetime; and

4 WHEREAS, A majority of the perpetrators of crime currently
5 have or had a father in prison; and

6 WHEREAS, Even after controlling for income, youths in father-
7 absent households had significantly higher odds of incarceration
8 than those in mother-father families; and

9 WHEREAS, Youths who never had a father in the household
10 experienced the highest odds; and

11 WHEREAS, A 2002 Department of Justice survey of 7,000 inmates
12 revealed that 39% of jail inmates lived in mother-only
13 households; and

14 WHEREAS, Approximately 46% of jail inmates in 2002 had a
15 previously incarcerated family member; and

16 WHEREAS, One-fifth of the inmates had experienced a father in
17 prison or jail; and

18 WHEREAS, The Fathers and Children Together (FACT) Program is
19 an initiative created by the United Community Action Network and
20 supported by the Latin American Cultural Exchange Organization
21 at SCI-Graterford to help reconnect incarcerated fathers back
22 into the lives of their children; and

23 WHEREAS, The goal of FACT is to educate incarcerated men
24 through workshops structured to address the responsibilities of
25 fatherhood and also to establish positive relationships with
26 their children in an effort to cut off the "cradle-to-prison
27 pipeline"; and

28 WHEREAS, FACT is celebrating the beginning of its third year
29 of success with calls for the program to be introduced to other
30 State correctional institutions in this Commonwealth; therefore

1 be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
3 Department of Corrections to consider facilitating a FACT
4 program at each State and county correctional institution and
5 break the cycle of trauma, violence and crime in our communities
6 while also enhancing public safety; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Corrections report to the
8 General Assembly on the results of the program before November
9 30, 2014; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
11 the Office of the Governor and the Secretary of Corrections.