

1 HJR180
2 212259-2
3 By Representatives Holmes, Shiver, Robertson, Isbell,
4 Dismukes, Faust, Brown (K), Pettus, Standridge, Jones (M),
5 Ball, Sanderford, Lovvorn, Ingram, Fincher and McMillan
6 RFD: Rules
7 First Read: 07-APR-21

8 COMMENDING DARLENE HUTCHINSON-BIEHL FOR OUTSTANDING
9 PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AND SERVICE.

10
11 WHEREAS, it is a great pleasure and privilege to
12 extend highest commendations to a distinguished Alabamian,
13 Darlene Hutchinson-Biehl, for more than two decades of service
14 as a crime victims' advocate and champion of victims' rights;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, a resident of Alabama for more than 20
17 years, Darlene Hutchinson-Biehl embarked at a young age upon
18 service and dedication to crime victims; as a 20-year-old
19 college student, she was a victim of kidnapping; not only did
20 she escape, she participated fully in the apprehension and
21 prosecution of the offender; she subsequently received her
22 degree in Journalism from Troy State University in 1989; her
23 experiences as a victim and with the criminal justice system
24 inspired her to help other survivors; she has dedicated
25 countless volunteer hours to assisting victims of crime,
26 advancing public policy, teaching at police academies, and

accompanying hundreds of survivors and families across Alabama at parole hearings or trials; and

WHEREAS, through the years, her service to victims of crime in Alabama has been extraordinary; Darlene Hutchinson-Biehl was a part of the small team responsible for the passage and ratification of Alabama's Victims Constitutional Amendment in 1994-95, as well as other significant legislative acts; and

WHEREAS, with the unanimous support of the Alabama District Attorneys Association, Darlene Hutchinson-Biehl received an appointment in 2017 by the President of the United States, to serve as the Director of the Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime, where her office funded many national programs and services to assist millions of survivors in the aftermath of crime; as Director of the Office for Victims of Crime, she oversaw the administration of more than \$7.8 billion in grants and other projects using non-taxpayer dollars, which included phenomenal growth during Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019 when funding for the crime victims' field was the largest in the 33-year history of the Office for Victims of Crime; and

WHEREAS, among the programs funded during Darlene Hutchinson-Biehl's tenure as Director of the Office for Victims of Crime, thousands of grants and subgrants were awarded to a wide variety of organizations and agencies across the United States including \$2.18 million to the Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Commission, and \$82.73 million to the

1 Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, to
2 directly assist and support Alabama's crime victims, child
3 advocacy centers, homicide support organizations, elder abuse
4 programs, human trafficking and rape crisis centers, domestic
5 violence shelters, as well as many other vital programs to
6 provide direct service to crime victims; and

7 WHEREAS, as Director of the Office for Victims of
8 Crime, Darlene Hutchinson-Biehl led the nation's annual
9 observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, a tradition
10 begun by President Ronald Reagan in 1981 to spotlight the
11 needs of crime victims, publicize services available in
12 communities, and advocate for enhanced victims' rights;
13 determining the theme and developing resources for the
14 important week-long commemoration, observed by thousands of
15 organizations and millions of Americans, Darlene
16 Hutchinson-Biehl set the tone to seek justice, ensure victims'
17 rights, and inspire hope; and

18 WHEREAS, following her more than two years of
19 service as Director of the Office for Victims of Crime, she
20 continued her federal service in 2020 as Senior Advisor for
21 Victim Affairs within the Department of Justice Office of
22 Justice Programs; having returned to Alabama, Darlene
23 Hutchinson-Biehl continues to be a pivotal force, ensuring
24 victims' rights, advocating for enhanced victim assistance
25 programs, and improving public safety; now therefore,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
27 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Darlene Hutchinson-Biehl is

1 honored and commended for remarkable service to crime victims,
2 and for receiving a presidential appointment in 2017 to serve
3 in Washington, D.C., as the Director of the Office for Victims
4 of Crime within the United States Department of Justice, and
5 this resolution is offered to her in highest tribute and
6 deepest appreciation on behalf of the citizens of the State of
7 Alabama.