

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, among the programs funded during Darlene
23 Hutchinson-Biehl's tenure as Director of the Office for
24 Victims of Crime, thousands of grants and subgrants were
25 awarded to a wide variety of organizations and agencies across
26 the United States including \$2.18 million to the Alabama Crime
27 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.