

1 HJR180
2 212259-3
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

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2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3 COMMENDING DARLENE HUTCHINSON-BIEHL FOR OUTSTANDING
4 PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AND SERVICE.
5

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

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

24 WHEREAS, through the years, her service to victims
25 of crime in Alabama has been extraordinary; Darlene

1 Hutchinson-Biehl was a part of the small team responsible for
2 the passage and ratification of Alabama's Victims
3 Constitutional Amendment in 1994-95, as well as other
4 significant legislative acts; and

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

18 WHEREAS, among the programs funded during Darlene
19 Hutchinson-Biehl's tenure as Director of the Office for
20 Victims of Crime, thousands of grants and subgrants were
21 awarded to a wide variety of organizations and agencies across
22 the United States including \$2.18 million to the Alabama Crime
23 Victims Compensation Commission, and \$82.73 million to the
24 Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, to
25 directly assist and support Alabama's crime victims, child

1 advocacy centers, homicide support organizations, elder abuse
2 programs, human trafficking and rape crisis centers, domestic
3 violence shelters, as well as many other vital programs to
4 provide direct service to crime victims; and

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

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

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
25 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.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was adopted by the House 13-APR-21.

Jeff Woodard
Clerk

Senate 15-APR-21 Adopted