WHEREAS, approximately 7 percent of children under the age of 18 in the United States have had a parent incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, these children are at higher risk of adverse childhood experiences, insecure attachment, social stigma, unstable family relationships, physical and mental health issues and low educational attainment; and

WHEREAS, contact between incarcerated parents and their children can help reduce these risk factors for the children and reduce recidivism for the incarcerated parent; and

WHEREAS, North Dakotans are encouraged to help reduce risk factors to both children and parents through education, promoting family contact while incarcerated, and reducing social stigma.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim September 15, 2020, CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS DAY in the State of North Dakota.