

their children with them. It is time for Georgia to rethink its model for prison spending. At present, there are only nine U.S. prison nurseries within criminal justice facilities (Byrne & Benning, 2015). We can do better. For example, the National Institute of Corrections has pointed out that the Washington Correction Center for Women has developed a prison childcare program coalescing an Early Head Start and a residential parenting program ("Residential Parenting Program," 2009). It would behoove Georgia's leaders to take a look at what programs exist for pregnant women and mothers and consider adopting a model that would be a good fit for our state. A good resource and place to begin reviewing models is The Rebecca Project for Human Rights (Saar, 2010). After all, "If a community values its children, it must cherish their parents" (Bowlby, 1951).

We recognize the competing missions to provide for public safety and to prepare offenders to reenter the *free* world. We also understand that correctional facilities have tight

budgets, do not legislate what is criminal, and do not adjudicate crimes. However, there are areas where corrections can have an influence, such as recognizing and accommodating the health needs of women offenders. We recommend that correctional facilities link health needs of women to reentry efforts to include parental involvement and parenting programs. We also suggest improving mental health support, health care, and programs to interrupt the cycle of inter-generational incarceration. There is evidence that children of incarcerated parents are harmed long-term as a result of parental detachment and poor parenting skills (Shlafer et al., 2012). Such reentry programs may have long-term value not only for offending adults, but also for their children. These changes may necessitate policy changes and an investment in resources. We also recommend further studies that investigate the effect that incarceration has on children, particularly girls, to determine the extent, type, and seriousness of recidivism.

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