SLS 22RS-1441 **ORIGINAL**

2022 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY SENATOR FOIL

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH. Commends the Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs and volunteers for their work and designates April 12, 2022, as CASA Day at the state capitol.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs and volunteers for their work and designate April 12, 2022, as CASA Day at the state capitol.

WHEREAS, the people of Louisiana pride themselves on giving back to the community and contributing to the improvement of the quality of life of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, the mission of CASA is to give every child who has been abused or neglected the opportunity to thrive and establish permanence with quality advocacy from a CASA volunteer; and

WHEREAS, the CASA programs in Louisiana, in association with the National CASA Association, speak for the best interests of abused and neglected children; CASA volunteers are trained citizens appointed by a judge to represent these children; and

WHEREAS, there are seventeen CASA programs serving sixty-one parishes across the state, with donated service hours by CASA volunteers valued at $1.5 million; and

WHEREAS, there were 47,091 reports of child abuse or neglect in Louisiana in 2021; and

WHEREAS, approximately 5,700 of Louisiana's children were unable to live safely with their families and had been placed in foster homes and institutions; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, approximately 3,500 Louisiana children were served by approximately 1,600 CASA volunteers who provided more than 53,000 hours of volunteer service to Louisiana's foster children; and

WHEREAS, Sara Ghere, a CASA volunteer with CASA of Terrebonne has been named CASA Advocate of the Year in recognition of her exemplary service; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's CASA programs and all CASA volunteers merit a special measure of commendation for the outstanding work that they do on behalf of the abused and neglected children of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocate programs across the state and Sara Ghere as well as all the CASA volunteers who give tirelessly of their time and energy to serve as powerful voices for children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Kathleen Stewart Richey, Executive Director, Louisiana CASA Association.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Kathy Liberty.

DIGEST

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