

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 46

BY REPRESENTATIVE LYONS

A RESOLUTION

To designate Wednesday, April 13, 2022, as Child Advocacy Center Day in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Louisiana child advocacy centers have made valuable contributions to Louisiana and have helped make the state a better place for children and families; and

WHEREAS, the year 2022 marks the thirty-first year that child advocacy centers have existed in the state of Louisiana, a tradition that began with the establishment of the Jefferson Children's Advocacy Center in Gretna in 1991; and

WHEREAS, April has been designated as National Child Abuse Prevention Month; and

WHEREAS, one in ten children will experience sexual abuse before the age of eighteen; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's child advocacy centers provide services to over 6,000 children each year in every parish of the state for cases involving physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, human trafficking, domestic violence, and homicide; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's child advocacy centers provide education and raise awareness to facilitate the prevention, identification, and reporting of child abuse, and in 2021, such centers reached over 36,000 professionals and community members; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Louisiana's child advocacy centers is to provide every child victim a comfortable, child-friendly environment for forensic interviewing, victim advocacy, mental health, and other services to put an end to further trauma and promote healing; and

WHEREAS, child advocacy centers work with multidisciplinary teams of professionals to coordinate child abuse investigation and intervention, including district

attorneys, members of the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, members of various law enforcement agencies, medical and mental health providers, and victim advocates; and

WHEREAS, child advocacy centers use evidence-based practices to support child well-being, and research demonstrates that this approach improves outcomes for children, reduces trauma for families, and saves taxpayer money; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy Centers is the state chapter established to advocate for, and facilitate the collaboration of, Louisiana's child advocacy centers; and

WHEREAS, similarly, the Louisiana Alliance for Children's Advocacy Centers provides a wide range of critical services to local member centers, including training, technical assistance, data collection, and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, with ten centers that are currently fully accredited members in good standing with the National Children's Alliance, and up to five centers that are on the path to national accreditation, Louisiana's child advocacy centers are part of a network of over 900 centers across the nation that serve over 350,000 children annually.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Wednesday, April 13, 2022, as Child Advocacy Center Day in Louisiana and does hereby commend the staffs of child advocacy centers for their excellent work and dedication on behalf of the citizens of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the board of directors of the Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy Centers, and the executive director of the Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy Centers.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES