

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 83

BY REPRESENTATIVE LYONS

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Recognizes April 27, 2023, as Child Advocacy Center Day in Louisiana

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To recognize Thursday, April 27, 2023, as Child Advocacy Center (CAC) Day in Louisiana.

3 WHEREAS, Louisiana's CACs have made valuable contributions to the state and
4 have helped to make the state a better place for children and families; and

5 WHEREAS, with the establishment of the Jefferson Children's Advocacy Center in
6 Gretna, Louisiana, in 1991, the year 2023 marks thirty-two years of existence of CACs in
7 Louisiana; and

8 WHEREAS, April is recognized as National Child Abuse Prevention Month; and

9 WHEREAS, one in ten children will experience sexual abuse before the age of
10 eighteen; Louisiana's CACs provide services to more than six thousand children each year
11 in Louisiana's sixty-four parishes for cases involving physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse,
12 human trafficking, and children who have witnessed domestic violence and homicide; and

13 WHEREAS, CACs in Louisiana provide education and promote awareness for the
14 prevention, identification, and reporting of child abuse; in 2022, these efforts reached over
15 fifty-four thousand professionals and community members; and

16 WHEREAS, the mission of Louisiana's CACs is to provide every child victim
17 referred to a CAC a comfortable, child-friendly environment for forensic interviewing,
18 victim advocacy, mental health care, and other services to reduce further trauma to the child
19 and to promote healing; and

20 WHEREAS, CACs work with multidisciplinary teams of child abuse professionals
21 to coordinate child abuse investigation and intervention, including district attorneys,

1 Department of Children and Family Services employees, various law enforcement agencies,
2 medical and mental health providers, and victim advocates; and

3 WHEREAS, these CACs use evidence-based practices to support child well-being,
4 and that research has demonstrated these programs improve outcomes for children, reduce
5 trauma for families, and save taxpayer money; and

6 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy Centers is the state
7 chapter established for the empowerment, collaboration, and advocacy of Louisiana's CACs
8 and provides a wide range of critical services to local member centers, including training,
9 technical assistance, data collection, and advocacy; and

10 WHEREAS, with ten CACs that are fully accredited members in good standing with
11 the National Children's Alliance, and more centers on the path to national accreditation,
12 Louisiana's CACs are part of a network of over nine hundred centers across the nation which
13 serve more than three hundred fifty thousand children annually.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
15 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Thursday, April 27, 2023, as Child Advocacy
16 Center (CAC) Day in Louisiana and does hereby commend the dedication and excellent
17 work of CACs on behalf of the citizens of Louisiana.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 83 Original

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