

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 37

BY SENATOR HENRY

A RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, Louisiana's Child Advocacy Centers have made valuable contributions to the state and have helped to make the state a better place for children and families; and

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

WHEREAS, one in ten children will experience sexual abuse before age 18; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's Child Advocacy Centers provide services to over 6,000 children each year in the 64 parishes of Louisiana for cases involving physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, human trafficking, and for children who have witnessed domestic violence and homicide; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's Child Advocacy Centers provide education and awareness efforts for the prevention, identification, and reporting of child abuse and in 2022, reached over 54,000 professionals and community members; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Louisiana's Child Advocacy Centers is to provide every child referred to a CAC a comfortable, child-friendly environment for forensic interviewing, victim advocacy, mental health, and other services in order to reduce further trauma to the child and promote healing; and

WHEREAS, Child Advocacy Centers work with multidisciplinary teams of child abuse professionals to coordinate child abuse investigation and intervention, including district attorneys, members of the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, 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 for the empowerment, collaboration, and advocacy of Louisiana's Child Advocacy Centers and 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 on the path to national accreditation, Louisiana's Child Advocacy Centers are a part of a network of over 900 centers across the nation which serve over 350,000 children annually.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy Centers Board President, Aelania Auzenne, and Executive Director, Krystle Mitchell.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE