

2021 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 13

BY SENATOR HENRY

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH. Designates Monday, April 19, 2021, as Child Advocacy Center (CAC) Day in Louisiana.

A RESOLUTION

To designate Monday, April 19, 2021, 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, with the establishment of the Jefferson Children's Advocacy Center in Gretna, Louisiana in 1991, this year, 2021, marks the thirtieth anniversary for Child Advocacy Centers in Louisiana; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Louisiana's Child Advocacy Centers provide services to over 5,000 children each year in the sixty-four parishes of this state for cases involving physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, human trafficking, and children who have witnessed domestic violence and homicide; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's Child Advocacy Centers reach over 23,000 professionals and community members annually through education and awareness efforts for the prevention, identification, and reporting of child abuse; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Louisiana's Child Advocacy Centers is to provide every

1 child victim referred to CAC a comfortable, child-friendly environment for forensic  
2 interviewing, victim advocacy, mental health, and other services in order to reduce further  
3 trauma to the child and promote healing; and

4 WHEREAS, Child Advocacy Centers work with multidisciplinary teams of child  
5 abuse professionals to coordinate child abuse investigation and intervention, including  
6 district attorneys, Department of Children and Family Services, various law enforcement  
7 agencies, medical and mental health providers, and victim advocates; and

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

11 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy Centers is the state  
12 chapter established for the empowerment, collaboration, and advocacy of Louisiana's Child  
13 Advocacy Centers and provides a wide range of critical services to local member centers,  
14 including training, technical assistance, data collection, and advocacy; and

15 WHEREAS, with ten centers who are currently full accredited members in good  
16 standing with the National Children's Alliance, and five centers on the path to national  
17 accreditation, Louisiana's Child Advocacy Centers are a part of a network of over nine  
18 hundred centers across the nation which serve over 350,000 children annually.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
20 does hereby designate Monday, April 19, 2021, as Child Advocacy Center (CAC) Day in  
21 Louisiana and does hereby commend the dedication and excellent work of the CACs and  
22 their staff on behalf of the citizens of Louisiana.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
24 Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy Centers Board President, Joelle Henderson, and  
25 its Executive Director, Kate Shipley.

