

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 54

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUSTIN MILLER

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program and its volunteers.

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 is a victim of abuse or neglect an 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, advocate 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 of Louisiana, with donated service hours by CASA volunteers valued at \$1.5 million; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, there were 47,091 reports of child abuse or neglect in Louisiana; approximately 5,700 of Louisiana's children were unable to live safely with their families and had been placed in foster care; and

WHEREAS, in that same year, approximately 3,500 Louisiana children were served by 1,600 CASA volunteers; these volunteers selflessly donated more than 53,000 hours of volunteer service to our state's foster children; and

WHEREAS, Sara Ghere, a 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 in the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program and its volunteers; does hereby further recognize Sara Ghere and all other CASA volunteers for their incredibly selfless service to the abused and neglected children in Louisiana; and does hereby extend sincere wishes that CASA continue to receive such vital aid and support from generous Louisianans so it can continue to serve as a voice for children in need.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of Louisiana CASA.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES