

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 79

BY REPRESENTATIVE COATES

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Designates April 11, 2024, as Child Advocacy Center (CAC) Day in Louisiana

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To designate Thursday, April 11, 2024, as Child Advocacy Center (CAC) Day in Louisiana.

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

5 WHEREAS, April is designated National Child Abuse Prevention Month; one in ten
6 children will experience sexual abuse before age 18; and

7 WHEREAS, Louisiana’s Child Advocacy Centers provide services to over 7,000
8 children each year in the 64 parishes of Louisiana for cases involving physical abuse,
9 neglect, sexual abuse, human trafficking, and children who have witnessed domestic
10 violence and homicide; and

11 WHEREAS, Louisiana’s Child Advocacy Centers provide education and awareness
12 efforts for the prevention, identification, and reporting of child abuse; in 2023, the centers
13 reached over fifty-eight thousand professionals, children, and community members; and

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

18 WHEREAS, CACs work with multidisciplinary teams of child abuse professionals
19 to coordinate child abuse investigation and intervention, including district attorneys, the
20 Department of Children and Family Services, various law enforcement agencies, medical
21 and mental health providers, and victim advocates; and

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

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

8 WHEREAS, with eleven centers that are fully accredited members in good standing
9 with the National Children’s Alliance, and three centers on the path to national accreditation,
10 Louisiana’s Child Advocacy Centers are a part of a network of over 900 centers across the
11 nation which serve over 350,000 children annually.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
13 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Thursday, April 11, 2024, as Child Advocacy
14 Center (CAC) Day in Louisiana and does hereby commend the dedication and excellent
15 work of the CACs and their staffs 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 79 Original

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