**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE THAT ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN IS A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM AND TO DECLARE TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2014, AS “CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY DAY” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, in 2013, an estimated 294,781 children were served by children’s advocacy centers nationwide; and

Whereas, in 2013, children’s advocacy centers throughout South Carolina served an estimated 7,089 child victims of abuse, providing victim advocacy and support to them and their families. Of these 7,089 children, approximately 78 percent were twelve years old or younger; and

Whereas, although neglect is the most common form of child maltreatment, victims also suffer year after year from physical abuse, sexual abuse, drug endangerment, commercial sexual exploitation, and psychological maltreatment; and

Whereas, children’s advocacy centers seek to model, promote, and deliver excellence in child abuse response and prevention through direct service, education, collaboration, and leadership; and

Whereas, it is entirely appropriate for the South Carolina Senate to pause in its deliberations to underline the growing problem of child abuse and the serious impact its continued existence has on the citizens of South Carolina, as well as upon the nation. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize that abuse and neglect of children is a significant problem and declare Tuesday, April 8, 2014, as “Children’s Advocacy Day” in South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Kim Hamm, Executive Director of the South Carolina Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers.

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