**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE THAT ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN ARE SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS AND TO DECLARE TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015, AS “CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY DAY” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, in 2014, an estimated 315,806 children were served by children’s advocacy centers nationwide; and

Whereas, in 2014, children’s advocacy centers throughout South Carolina served an estimated 7,059 child victims of abuse, providing victim advocacy and support to them and their families. Of these 7,059 children, approximately eighty 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 General Assembly to pause in its deliberations to focus on the growing problems of child abuse and neglect and the serious impact their continued occurrence has on the citizens of the Palmetto State, as well as on those of the rest of the nation. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize that abuse and neglect of children are significant problems and declare Tuesday, April 28, 2015, as “Children’s Advocacy Day” in South Carolina.

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

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