**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE THAT ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN IS A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM, AND TO DECLARE APRIL AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, nearly five children die every day in America from abuse and neglect, and in 2009, an estimated 1,770 children nationwide died from abuse; and

Whereas, in the same year, Children’s Advocacy Centers around the country served over 254,000 child victims of abuse, providing victim advocacy and support to these children and their families, and by 2010, this number was over 266,000; and

Whereas, statistics from Children’s Advocacy Centers provided by the National Children’s Alliance reported that, among the over 266,000 children served by Children’s Advocacy Centers around the country in 2010, almost forty percent were between the ages of newborn and six years old, and nearly as many were between the ages of six and twelve; and

Whereas, during 2007, an estimated 794,000 children were determined to be victims of abuse or neglect, and an estimated 1,760 children died as a result of that abuse or neglect; and

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

Whereas, National Children’s Advocacy Centers seek to model, promote, and deliver excellence in child abuse response and prevention through service, education, and leadership; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly understands the growing problem of child abuse and the serious impact its continued existence has on the citizens of South Carolina, 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 is a significant problem, and declare April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Jamie DeWeerdt, executive director of the CARE House of the Pee Dee.

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