**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE THAT ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN IS A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM AND TO DECLARE WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2012, AS “CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY DAY” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, nearly four children die every day in America from abuse and neglect, and in 2010 an estimated 1,560 children nationwide died from abuse; and

Whereas, in 2011, children’s advocacy centers around the State served an estimated 6,936 child victims of abuse, providing victim advocacy and support to them and their families. Of these 6,936 children, 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, 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, children’s advocacy centers seek to model, promote, and deliver excellence in child‑abuse response and prevention through service, education, and leadership; and

Whereas, it is entirely appropriate for the South Carolina General Assembly 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 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 Wednesday, May 23, 2012, 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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