**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE THAT ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN IS A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM, TO COMMEND THE IMPORTANT WORK BEING DONE TO COMBAT THIS SERIOUS PROBLEM, AND TO DECLARE TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017, AS “CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTER DAY” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, in 2016, an estimated 324,602 children were served by children’s advocacy centers nationwide; and

Whereas, in the same year, children’s advocacy centers throughout South Carolina served an estimated 8,117 child victims of abuse, providing victim advocacy and support services to them and their families. Of these 8,117 children, approximately seventy‑nine 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 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, commend the important work being done to combat this serious problem, and declare Tuesday, April 4, 2017, as “Children’s Advocacy Center 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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