**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020 AS “CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTER DAY” IN SOUTH CAROLINA IN ORDER TO HIGHLIGHT THE SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT AND THE IMPORTANT WORK BEING DONE TO COMBAT THIS PROBLEM.

Whereas, in 2019, 371,060 children were served by children’s advocacy centers nationwide; and

Whereas, in 2019, children’s advocacy centers throughout South Carolina served 10,690 child victims of abuse, providing victim advocacy and support services to them and their families. Of these 10,690 children, approximately 77 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 underscore 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 Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognition Wednesday, April 1, 2020, as “Children’s Advocacy Center Day” in South Carolina in order to highlight the significant problem of child abuse and neglect and the important work being done to combat this problem.

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