**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE THAT ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN IS A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM AND TO DECLARE TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022 AS “CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTER DAY” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, in 2021, nearly four hundred thousand children were served by children’s advocacy centers nationwide; and

Whereas, in 2021, children’s advocacy centers throughout South Carolina served over eleven thousand child victims of abuse, providing victim advocacy and support services to them and their families. This expansion in services represents a thirty-one percent increase in children served per year by children’s advocacy centers in South Carolina over the past five years; 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 Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize that abuse and neglect of children is a significant problem and declare Tuesday, April 5, 2022 as “Children’s Advocacy Center Day” in South Carolina.

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

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