**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE THAT ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN IS A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM, TO COMMEND THE IMPORTANT WORK DONE TO COMBAT CHILD MALTREATMENT, AND TO DECLARE TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022, AS “CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTER DAY” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, in 2021, 386,191 children were served by children’s advocacy centers nationwide; and

Whereas, in 2021, children’s advocacy centers throughout South Carolina served 11,117 child victims of abuse, providing victim advocacy and support services to them and their families. This represents a 31% 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 response and prevention of child abuse 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 done to combat child maltreatment, 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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