

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 11

BY SENATOR HENRY

A RESOLUTION

To designate Wednesday, April 13, 2022, as Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) Day in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Louisiana's Children's Advocacy Centers have made valuable contributions to the state and have helped to make the state a better place for children and families; and

WHEREAS, with the establishment of the Jefferson Children's Advocacy Center in Gretna, Louisiana, in 1991, this year, 2022, marks thirty-one years for Children's Advocacy Centers in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, April has been designated National Child Abuse Prevention Month; and

WHEREAS, one in ten children will experience sexual abuse before age eighteen; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's Children's Advocacy Centers provides services to over six thousand children each year in the sixty-four parishes of Louisiana for cases involving physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, human trafficking, and children who have witnessed domestic violence and homicide; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's Children's Advocacy Centers provide education and awareness efforts for the prevention, identification, and reporting of child abuse; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 alone, Louisiana's Children's Advocacy Centers reached over thirty-six thousand professionals and community members; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Louisiana's Children's Advocacy Centers is to provide every child victim referred to a CAC a comfortable, child-friendly environment for forensic interviewing, victim advocacy, mental health, and other services in order to reduce further trauma to the child and promote healing; and

WHEREAS, Children's Advocacy Centers work with multi-disciplinary teams of child abuse professionals to coordinate child abuse investigations and interventions, including district attorneys, the Department of Children and Family Services, various law enforcement agencies, medical and mental health providers, and victim advocates; and

WHEREAS, CACs use evidence-based practices to support child well-being, and that research has demonstrated these programs improve outcomes for children, reduce trauma for families, and save taxpayer money; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy Centers is the state chapter established for the empowerment, collaboration, and advocacy of Louisiana's Children's Advocacy Centers; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy Centers provides a wide range of critical services to local member centers, including training, technical assistance, data collection, and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, with ten centers that are currently fully accredited members in good standing with the National Children's Alliance, and up to five centers on the path to national accreditation, Louisiana's Children's Advocacy Centers are a part of a network of over nine hundred centers across the nation which serve over three hundred fifty thousand children annually.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Wednesday, April 13, 2022, as Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) Day in Louisiana and does hereby commend the dedication and excellent work of the Children's Advocacy Centers and their staff on behalf of the citizens of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy Centers Board President, Aelania Auzenne, and Executive Director, Kate Shipley.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE