

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1023

By Cepicky

A RESOLUTION to commemorate April 25, 2022, as Parental Alienation Awareness Day.

WHEREAS, strong family relationships constitute the foundation of our society; and

WHEREAS, alienating behaviors are frequently seen in high-conflict divorces, separations, and asymmetrical custody arrangements but can occur in intact marriages; and

WHEREAS, parental alienation is a term used to describe any number of behaviors and attitudes on the part of a parent, both parents, or a third party that are calculated to interfere with, damage, or destroy the relationship a child has with the other parent; parental alienation is a form of abuse that causes emotional trauma to children; and

WHEREAS, parental alienation deprives children of their right to freely love and be loved by both parents and their extended family and robs children of their sense of security; and

WHEREAS, the most recent edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* makes several references to the dysfunctional family dynamic of alienation as being a form of psychological child abuse; and

WHEREAS, Parental Alienation Awareness Day is intended to increase knowledge and understanding of this problem to help citizens, institutions, the legal and mental health communities, and local, state, and national leaders better identify and combat this abusive behavior to children; and

WHEREAS, children should be able to freely express the meaning of the acronym FAMILY: Father And Mother, I Love You; and

WHEREAS, on Parental Alienation Awareness Day, April 25, 2022, thousands of Americans will pause in their everyday lives to blow soap "Bubbles For Love"; each bubble they

blow will represent the love our children have and should be allowed to share with both of their parents; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commemorate April 25, 2022, as Parental Alienation Awareness Day in Tennessee in recognition of ongoing efforts to stop this insidious form of psychological child abuse.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.