

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 79

BY REPRESENTATIVE COATES

A RESOLUTION

To designate Thursday, April 11, 2024, as Child Advocacy Center (CAC) Day in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Louisiana's Child 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, April is designated National Child Abuse Prevention Month; one in ten children will experience sexual abuse before age 18; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's Child Advocacy Centers provide services to over 7,000 children each year in the 64 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 Child Advocacy Centers provide education and awareness efforts for the prevention, identification, and reporting of child abuse; in 2023, the centers reached over fifty-eight thousand professionals, children, and community members; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Louisiana's Child 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, CACs work with multidisciplinary teams of child abuse professionals to coordinate child abuse investigation and intervention, 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 that 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 Child Advocacy Center and provides a wide range of critical services to local member centers, including training, technical assistance, data collection, and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, with eleven centers that are fully accredited members in good standing with the National Children's Alliance, and three centers on the path to national accreditation, Louisiana's Child Advocacy Centers are a part of a network of over 900 centers across the nation which serve over 350,000 children annually.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Thursday, April 11, 2024, as Child Advocacy Center (CAC) Day in Louisiana and does hereby commend the dedication and excellent work of the CACs and their staffs on behalf of the citizens of Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES