

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 55

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs and volunteers.

WHEREAS, the people of Louisiana pride themselves on giving back to the community and contributing to the improvement of the quality of life of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, the mission of CASA is to ensure a safe, permanent home for all children with quality advocacy from a CASA volunteer; and

WHEREAS, the CASA programs in Louisiana, in association with the National CASA Association, speak for the best interests of abused and neglected children; and

WHEREAS, CASA volunteers are trained community members appointed by a judge to represent the best interests of those children; and

WHEREAS, there are seventeen CASA programs serving sixty-one parishes across the state with donated service hours by CASA volunteers valued at \$1.4 million; and

WHEREAS, there were 51,639 reports of child abuse or neglect in Louisiana in 2022; and

WHEREAS, approximately 6,272 of Louisiana's children were served by approximately 1,500 CASA volunteers who provided more than 50,000 hours of volunteer service to Louisiana's foster children; and

WHEREAS, David Clark, a CASA volunteer with CASA of St. Landry-Evangeline has been named CASA Advocate of the Year in recognition of his exemplary service; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's CASA programs and all CASA volunteers merit a special measure of commendation for the outstanding work that they do on behalf of the abused and neglected children of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs, staff, and board members across the state, and David Clark as well as all the CASA volunteers who give tirelessly of their time and energy to serve as powerful voices for children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Benjamin Huxen, chair of the board of directors of the Louisiana CASA Association.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE