

By: Representative Vaught

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE THAT ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN IS A SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM; TO COMMEND THE IMPORTANT WORK BEING DONE TO COMBAT THIS SERIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM; AND TO PROCLAIM APRIL 17, 2024, AS "CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER DAY" IN ARKANSAS AS PART OF NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH.

Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE THAT ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN IS A SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM; TO COMMEND THE IMPORTANT WORK BEING DONE TO COMBAT THIS PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM; AND TO PROCLAIM APRIL 17, 2024, AS "CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER DAY".

WHEREAS, in 2023, an estimated three hundred eighty-one thousand three hundred sixty-four (381,364) children were served by children's advocacy centers nationwide; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, twenty-seven (27) children's advocacy center locations throughout Arkansas served an estimated nine thousand four hundred twelve (9,412) child victims of abuse, providing over eighty thousand (80,000) victim advocacy and support services to the children and their families; and of those nine thousand four hundred twelve (9,412) children, a majority of the children were twelve (12) years old or younger; and

WHEREAS, although neglect is the most common form of child



maltreatment, child 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 child abuse response and prevention through direct service, education, collaboration, and leadership; and

WHEREAS, Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas is the leading statewide organization supporting the multidisciplinary response to child abuse; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to underline the growing problem of child abuse and the serious impact child abuse has on the citizens of Arkansas and the future generations of our state, as well as on those of the rest of the nation,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives recognize that abuse and neglect of children is a significant public health problem; commend the important work being done to combat this serious public health problem; and proclaim April 17, 2024, as "Children's Advocacy Center Day" in Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution shall be provided to Ms. Elizabeth Pulley, Executive Director of the Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas, by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.