

By: Representatives T. Shephard, Barnett

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE FEBRUARY 10, 2025, AS KIDS COUNT DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL, AND TO RECOGNIZE THE ARKANSAS KIDS COUNT COALITION FOR ITS ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF THE CHILDREN OF ARKANSAS.

Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE FEBRUARY 10, 2025, AS KIDS COUNT DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL, AND TO RECOGNIZE THE ARKANSAS KIDS COUNT COALITION FOR ITS ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF THE CHILDREN OF ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Kids Count Coalition is a membership coalition comprised of diverse individuals and organizations concerned about policies impacting children in Arkansas, and is staffed by Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Kids Count Coalition serves as a strong, independent nongovernmental grassroots voice for the children of Arkansas, providing education and policy resources to support advocacy for the well-being of all Arkansas children; and

WHEREAS, when the Arkansas Kids Count Coalition was founded in 1996, one (1) in four (4) Arkansas children lived in poverty, but today those figures have dropped to only one (1) in five (5); and

WHEREAS, the membership of the Arkansas Kids Count Coalition is



composed of twenty-six (26) organizations and one hundred four (104) individuals who live across Arkansas, from Marianna to Lowell to Jonesboro to Hot Springs; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Arkansas Kids Count Coalition work to improve the mental health of families, and function as nonprofits alleviating hunger in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Arkansas Kids Count Coalition are retired educators and parents who want to improve the lives of all the children of Arkansas, no matter where those children are from or what they look like; and

WHEREAS, throughout each year, the members of the Arkansas Kids Count Coalition connect with and educate advocates around Arkansas, giving them tools and resources to lobby Arkansas lawmakers regarding the well-being of Arkansas children; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the Arkansas Kids Count Coalition hosted fourteen (14) events in eight (8) towns in Arkansas and online, with four hundred forty-two (442) total attendees; and

WHEREAS, on February 10, 2025, the members of the Arkansas Kids Count Coalition will be at the State Capitol to celebrate the biannual Kids Count Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, because of the advocacy of the members of the Arkansas Kids Count Coalition, the members of the General Assembly, and Arkansas citizens who lifted up the voices of children, continued progress has been seen in the well-being of Arkansas children; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Kids Count Coalition believes that laws are made by the people who show up and vows to continue to show up for Arkansas children and ensure that Arkansas continues to make progress in improving the lives of the children of Arkansas,

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the House of Representatives recognize February 10, 2025, as Kids Count Day at the State Capitol and recognize the Arkansas Kids Count Coalition for its advocacy for Arkansas children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be provided to the membership of the Arkansas Kids Count Coalition by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.