SLS 19RS-264 **ENGROSSED**

2019 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13

BY SENATOR JOHNS AND REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH. Commends the Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs and volunteers for their outstanding work on behalf of the abused and neglected children and designates April 17, 2019, as CASA Day at the Legislature.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize April 17, 2019, as CASA Day at the Legislature and to commend the Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs and volunteers for their outstanding work on behalf of the abused and neglected children of Louisiana.

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 Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs in Louisiana, in association with the National CASA Association, speak for the best interests of abused and neglected children; CASA volunteers are trained citizens appointed by a judge to represent these children; and

WHEREAS, the first CASA program in Louisiana began in 1986 in Orleans Parish; in 2019 there are eighteen CASA programs serving fifty-five parishes across the state, with donated service hours by CASA volunteers valued at $1.7 million; and

WHEREAS, nearly 14,000 children in Louisiana suffer some form of abuse or neglect each year; and

WHEREAS, approximately 4,800 of Louisiana's children are currently unable to live safely with their families and have been placed in foster homes and institutions; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 more than 4,142 Louisiana children were served by

approximately 2,264 CASA volunteers who provided more than 67,769 hours of volunteer service to Louisiana's foster children; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's CASA programs and 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 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize and commend the Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs across the state and the CASA volunteers who give tirelessly of their time and energy to serve as powerful voices for children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Wednesday, April 17, 2019, is hereby recognized as CASA Day at the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the Louisiana CASA Association.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Yoursheka George.

DIGEST

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