

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 323

BY REPRESENTATIVE EDMONSTON

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Commends the Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocate programs and volunteers and designates May 27, 2026, as CASA Day at the Capitol

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs and
3 volunteers; to recognize the contributions of CASA volunteers across the state; to
4 honor James Barse of CASA Jefferson as the Volunteer Advocate of the Year; to
5 honor Ja'Nika Stanley of Capital Area CASA as the Heart of Advocacy Award
6 recipient; and to designate Wednesday, May 27, 2026, as CASA Day at the Capitol.

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

9 WHEREAS, CASA programs in Louisiana, in association with the National
10 CASA/GAL Association for Children, speak for the best interests of abused and neglected
11 children; and

12 WHEREAS, CASA volunteers are trained community members appointed by a judge
13 to advocate for the best interests of children who have experienced abuse or neglect and who
14 are involved in the child welfare system; and

15 WHEREAS, Louisiana CASA programs and volunteers provide a powerful voice for
16 children and work to ensure that each child's needs, safety, well-being, and path to a safe and
17 permanent home remain at the center of the court process; and

18 WHEREAS, in the most recent reporting year, Louisiana CASA programs served
19 three thousand seven hundred forty-four children with the support of one thousand four
20 hundred fourteen CASA volunteers; and

1 WHEREAS, those CASA volunteers contributed forty-two thousand four hours of
2 volunteer service, with an estimated value of one million five hundred eighteen thousand
3 twenty-four dollars; and

4 WHEREAS, Louisiana's CASA programs and volunteers merit a special measure of
5 commendation for their outstanding work on behalf of children and families across the state;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, James Barse of CASA Jefferson has been named the Volunteer
8 Advocate of the Year in recognition of his outstanding commitment, passion, and dedication
9 to improving the lives of the children he serves; the Volunteer Advocate of the Year Award
10 recognizes a CASA advocate who has demonstrated exceptional skill in advocating for the
11 best interests of a CASA child and who has gone above and beyond in the role of CASA
12 volunteer advocate; and

13 WHEREAS, Ja'Nika Stanley of Capital Area CASA has been named the Heart of
14 Advocacy Award recipient in recognition of her resilience, determination, and strength as
15 a CASA-served former foster youth who rose above difficult circumstances to build a
16 hopeful and healthy future; and

17 WHEREAS, CASA Day at the Capitol provides an important opportunity to
18 recognize the essential role of CASA programs and volunteers in Louisiana's child welfare
19 and judicial systems and to raise awareness of the continued need for advocacy on behalf of
20 children.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
22 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Louisiana Court Appointed Special
23 Advocate programs across the state and the CASA volunteers who give tirelessly of their
24 time and energy to serve as powerful voices for children; does hereby recognize and honor
25 James Barse of CASA Jefferson as the Volunteer Advocate of the Year and Ja'Nika Stanley
26 of Capital Area CASA as the Heart of Advocacy Award recipient; and does hereby designate
27 Wednesday, May 27, 2026, as CASA Day at the Capitol and encourages continued support
28 for CASA programs and the children and families they serve throughout Louisiana.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 323 Original

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Edmonston

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