

By: Kolkhorst, Hughes

S.R. No. 256

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The volunteers, staff, and board members who make up the Texas Court Appointed Special Advocates network are gathering in Austin on March 1, 2023, for CASA Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Texas CASA is part of a national volunteer movement that began in 1977 to enlist local community volunteers to support children and families involved in the foster care system; beginning in 1979 with the first Texas CASA program which was established in Dallas, and followed by the formation of Texas CASA in 1989, judges, individual volunteers, and communities across the state have worked to expand CASA's initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Providing 72 local programs in 219 of the state's 254 counties, Texas CASA has grown to become one of the largest such initiatives in the nation; through their advocacy efforts in the 2020 fiscal year, CASA volunteers made a difference for 29,229 young people by helping build community connections and pathways to resiliency and healing from trauma; and

WHEREAS, CASA volunteers are appointed by a judge to provide valuable information to them and to make informed recommendations to the courts so that they can act in the best interests of each child; and

WHEREAS, The CASA network in Texas works tirelessly to serve more children and families and to ensure that it serves

those children and families as informed, collaborative partners in an ever-evolving system of care; and

WHEREAS, All those associated with CASA are truly deserving of recognition for their important work and service to the State of Texas, its courts, its children, and its families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 88th Legislature, hereby recognize March 1, 2023, as CASA Day at the State Capitol and commend the organization for its diligent efforts to aid abused and neglected children; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the organization as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.