

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 612

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Incorporated, on the occasion of Child Abuse Prevention Month, which has been designated as April of 2003; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the Child Advocacy Centers of Texas is to restore the lives of abused children; its staff members work with law enforcement, prosecutors, medical personnel, and volunteers in the best interest of the child victim; and

WHEREAS, Child abuse affects all citizens of Texas; according to recent statistics, it is the leading cause of death in children under age one; the annual direct costs of dealing with child abuse through hospitalization, chronic health problems, mental health care, child welfare, law enforcement, and the judicial system are more than \$24 billion nationally; and

WHEREAS, Abused and neglected children are 53 percent more likely to be arrested for juvenile crime; abused children are more likely to be arrested as adults, and violent offenders who commit crimes against children are more likely to have been physically or sexually abused as children; and

WHEREAS, Through its 53 local centers, the Children's Advocacy Centers provide vital services to children and families in more than 120 counties in the state; last year, 25,000 child victims received services from the centers, and 18,000 children received mental health counseling services; and

WHEREAS, The state association of the Children's Advocacy Centers provides specialized training and technical assistance for center personnel across the state; and

WHEREAS, The many volunteers, contributors, and well-trained staff of the Children's Advocacy Centers enable the organization to continue its work to reduce the harmful effects and to stop the cycle of child abuse; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby commend the Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Incorporated, for its invaluable work on behalf of the children of our state and encourage the public to observe April of 2003 as Child Abuse Prevention Month; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Lindsay

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 16, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate