

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 636**

**WHEREAS**, Head trauma is the leading cause of disability and death among infants and children, and during Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, the Shaken Baby Alliance of Fort Worth is calling attention to a particular form of abusive head trauma that is often borne of frustration or ignorance; and

**WHEREAS**, Shaken Baby Syndrome occurs when a caregiver violently shakes or slams a child, usually to stop the child from crying; the head and neck of a child younger than two are especially vulnerable, and the whiplash motion caused by violent shaking results in the tearing and bleeding of delicate veins over the child's brain, which in turn cause pressure that destroys brain tissue; statistics show that between 25 to 30 percent of Shaken Baby Syndrome victims die and that those who do survive usually suffer from one or more devastating disorders, which may include permanent brain damage, cerebral palsy, paralysis, blindness, or severe learning and behavior problems; and

**WHEREAS**, Symptoms of the syndrome range from mild forms of irritability, poor feeding, vomiting, and lethargy to more serious symptoms, such as breathing difficulties, seizures, comas, and death; and

**WHEREAS**, The Shaken Baby Alliance of Fort Worth offers support and information for families affected by Shaken Baby Syndrome as well as for professionals needing information and referral services; founded in 1998 by three mothers whose children were victims of the syndrome, the alliance's threefold mission consists of support for victim families and professionals, prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome through education, and justice for the innocent victims as shaking a baby is considered a serious crime; and

**WHEREAS**, It has been estimated that as many as 50 percent of teenagers and adult caregivers do not know that shaking a baby is dangerous and can be fatal; it is the aim of the Shaken Baby Alliance to share this vital information with everyone who cares for a child, and Child Abuse Prevention Month in April offers an excellent opportunity to disseminate this important message to all Texans; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby commend the Shaken Baby Alliance during Child Abuse Prevention Month for their invaluable efforts to help affected families and extend to all those associated with the alliance sincere best wishes for success in the fight against Shaken Baby Syndrome; and, be it further

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**RESOLVED**, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for the organization as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Harris

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 18, 2005.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate