

1 HJR173
2 175913-1
3 By Representative McCutcheon
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 17-MAR-16

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8 RECOGNIZING APRIL 2016 AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION
9 MONTH.

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11 WHEREAS, with more than 33,637 allegations of
12 reported abuse and neglect in Alabama during 2015, the
13 employees of the Department of Human Resources, law
14 enforcement, prosecutors, medical professionals, mental health
15 professionals, and Children's Advocacy Centers have worked
16 diligently to respond to the needs of these children and
17 families; and

18 WHEREAS, child abuse leaves devastating and
19 everlasting emotional scars on the most innocent and trusting
20 of our citizens and dramatically impacts Alabama's health and
21 economy; and

22 WHEREAS, all children deserve freedom from sexual,
23 physical, verbal, and emotional abuse and neglect; and

24 WHEREAS, Alabama is home to the birth of the
25 Children's Advocacy Center model which coordinates the
26 multidisciplinary response to child abuse and now includes

1 more than 850 Children's Advocacy Centers throughout the
2 United States; and

3 WHEREAS, in 2015, the thirty-three members of the
4 Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy Centers provided 6,991
5 forensic interviews, 976 medical exams, 15,498 therapy
6 sessions, and the Multidisciplinary Teams reviewed 12,810
7 cases; and

8 WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs
9 succeed because of partnerships created among social service
10 agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law
11 enforcement agencies, and the business community; and

12 WHEREAS, indeed, child abuse awareness and
13 prevention efforts provide ways in which countless individuals
14 can participate in helping victims become survivors of child
15 abuse so that they may lead healthy, productive lives; now
16 therefore,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
18 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That it is with highest
19 commendation that we recognize April 2016 as Child Abuse
20 Prevention Month, and, by copy of this resolution for
21 appropriate display, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to
22 the dedicated multidisciplinary professionals for making the
23 State of Alabama a more secure and safer place for children.