

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

8 RECOGNIZING APRIL 2016 AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION  
9 MONTH.  
10

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.