



HR0642

LRB103 39781 LAW 70332 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate the Illinois Association of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) on providing best interest advocacy for youth in care for the past 31 years; and

3

4

5

6

WHEREAS, Founded in 1993, Illinois CASA is the organizing body for 31 local CASA programs in 55 of the 102 counties in Illinois that recruit, train, and manage more than 3,400 volunteer advocates who advocate for the best interests of children who have experienced abuse and/or neglect and are now involved in the child welfare system; and

7

8

9

10

11

12

WHEREAS, Illinois CASA provides statewide advocacy, technical assistance, quality assurance, training, and resources for the network of local CASA programs, builds capacity and plans for the growth of the CASA network, and advocates for reform and improvement in the child welfare sector in Illinois; and

13

14

15

16

17

18

WHEREAS, Illinois CASA's volunteer advocates are trained and supervised by their local agencies and sworn to confidentiality by the Juvenile Judge of the Circuit Court; they gather objective information that is used for the best interest advocacy for each child and report to the court

19

20

21

22

1 regularly on the status of each child, providing valuable  
2 recommendations that have a lasting impact on permanency; they  
3 are each assigned to one case at a time, usually concerning one  
4 or two children, and serve on that case until it closes while  
5 working as a team member with the caseworker assigned by the  
6 Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the  
7 Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) Attorney assigned to the child;  
8 overall, they have contributed more than 275,000 hours of  
9 collective time; and

10 WHEREAS, Illinois CASA has developed the Illinois Equity  
11 Task Force to ensure that an environment of Diversity, Equity,  
12 and Inclusion (DEI) remains a focal point in providing  
13 equitable services and resources for all children who have  
14 experienced abuse and/or neglect; since the adoption of its  
15 DEI statement, the organization's board and the task force  
16 have coordinated an ongoing review of its mission statement,  
17 policies, and alignment to newly developed DEI principles; and

18 WHEREAS, Over the course of its 31-year history, Illinois  
19 CASA has collaborated meaningfully with partners to deliver  
20 training and technical assistance focused on meeting the needs  
21 of children, advocated for policies that more broadly  
22 addressed the needs of all involved in the child welfare  
23 system, and supported its staff and volunteers with programs  
24 that focus on vicarious trauma, compassion fatigue, and

1 burnout so they can provide trauma-informed support to  
2 children; therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
4 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
5 we congratulate the Illinois Association of Court Appointed  
6 Special Advocates (CASA) on providing best interest advocacy  
7 for youth in care for the past 31 years, and we recognize the  
8 organization for its continued service and dedication to the  
9 children of Illinois and the State; and be it further

10       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
11 presented to Illinois CASA as an expression of our esteem and  
12 respect.