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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 781 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY GLEIM, JONES, KIM, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, ROTHMAN,  
KINSEY, SCHMITT, JAMES, SONNEY, NEILSON, YOUNGBLOOD, BROOKS,  
BIZZARRO, HENNESSEY, BURNS, MURT, HOWARD, MACKENZIE, HILL-  
EVANS, READSHAW, SCHLEGEL CULVER, ROEBUCK AND GAINNEY,  
FEBRUARY 28, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, FEBRUARY 28, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 21, 2020, as "Court Appointed Special  
2 Advocates Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Court Appointed Special Advocates  
4 (CASA) is a network of 19 local programs covering 24 counties in  
5 this Commonwealth, which are developed to provide volunteer  
6 advocacy for abused and neglected children in dependency court  
7 proceedings; and

8 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania CASA has 1,169 active volunteers who  
9 advocated for 2,129 abused and neglected children throughout  
10 this Commonwealth in 2017 and donated nearly thousands of hours  
11 of their time; and

12 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania CASA volunteers help to protect the  
13 safety and welfare of this Commonwealth's most vulnerable  
14 children and help to ensure that children's needs are being met  
15 while in the dependency system and that the children obtain safe  
16 and permanent housing as quickly as possible; and

1       WHEREAS, Pennsylvania CASA volunteers are deeply committed,  
2 specially trained advocates who work within the child welfare  
3 system and are appointed by dependency court judges to provide  
4 individualized attention and bring urgency to a child's needs  
5 throughout his or her time in between case managers, foster  
6 parents, service providers, attorneys and other stakeholders;  
7 and

8       WHEREAS, Pennsylvania CASA maximizes community resources and  
9 support for children and families within the child welfare  
10 system through increased community involvement and awareness,  
11 local and State advocacy efforts and a more coordinated and  
12 compassionate response to child victims and families in crisis;  
13 and

14       WHEREAS, The Commonwealth recognizes Pennsylvania CASA  
15 volunteers for selflessly giving their time and talents to  
16 advocate for the best interests of children in court and  
17 recognizes the volunteer board members and staff of the  
18 Pennsylvania CASA programs for their contributions on behalf of  
19 children of this Commonwealth; therefore be it

20       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate April  
21 21, 2020, as "Court Appointed Special Advocates Day" in  
22 Pennsylvania.