STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION HCR1015

By: Gilbert and Peters of the House

and

Cain of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution supporting community and statewide initiatives that would raise awareness about the importance of ending child abuse and neglect; proclaiming the month of April 2003 to be Child Abuse Prevention Month; applauding the work of the numerous dedicated individuals and professionals; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, in the astute words of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, "A torn jacket is soon mended; but hard words bruise the heart of a child"; and

WHEREAS, the hearts of numerous Oklahoma children have tragically been bruised by the devastating acts of child abuse and neglect which have affected their lives; and

WHEREAS, every forty minutes a child in Oklahoma is being abused or neglected; and

WHEREAS, over 53,000 very disturbing incidents of child abuse or neglect are reported each year to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, of which 26% are confirmed; and

WHEREAS, a recent annual report indicates that the lives of almost 14,000 children are confirmed to be abused or neglected in the state; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Legislature recognizes that the destiny of our society depends upon the positive development of one of our most

precious resources, our children, so that they will grow to be healthy, productive and happy citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that lawmakers in Oklahoma pause to recognize the devastating problems of child abuse and neglect and the lasting effects they have on our children.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature supports community and statewide initiatives that would raise awareness about the importance of ending child abuse and neglect in Oklahoma by building stronger communities in which children and families are both honored and valued.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature in support of alleviating child abuse and neglect and in support of Oklahoma's families and children does hereby proclaim the month of April 2003 to be Child Abuse Prevention Month in the hope that parents and families obtain the tools needed to provide healthy, nurturing homes for their children.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature applauds the work of the numerous dedicated individuals and professionals in Oklahoma who work in behalf of healing the many bruised hearts of children and their family members who have been impacted by the devastating acts of child abuse or neglect.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Howard Hendrick, Director of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services; Leslie Beitsch, M.D., J.D., Commissioner of Health, State Department of Health; Terry L. Cline, Ph.D., Commissioner, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; and each member of the State Interagency Child Abuse Prevention Task Force.

49-1-6740 ASK 04/07/03