

By: Senator(s) Wiggins, England, Frazier,
McCaughn, Seymour, Suber

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 543

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF ADVOCACY AND
2 SERVICE BY CASA OF SOUTHEAST MISSISSIPPI AND DESIGNATING APRIL
3 2025 AS "CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH" IN MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Child Abuse Awareness Month is a time to recognize
5 the suffering of children who have been abused and neglected and
6 to raise awareness about the critical need for prevention,
7 intervention, and support; and

8 WHEREAS, for the past 40 years, CASA of Southeast Mississippi
9 (formerly CASA of Jackson County), has been a beacon of hope,
10 providing crucial services to children and families impacted by
11 abuse and neglect, working tirelessly to ensure that every child
12 is given the opportunity to grow up in a safe and nurturing
13 environment; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1985, a small group of compassionate individuals
15 came together in Jackson County with a single vision: to provide
16 a safe space for children in the youth court system who had been
17 affected by abuse, neglect and trauma. Today, 40 years later,
18 that vision has grown into a beacon of hope for thousands of



children and families living in Jackson, George and Greene
Counties; and

WHEREAS, over the past four decades, CASA of Southeast
Mississippi has celebrated many significant milestones. Some of
their key accomplishments include:

- **Expansion of Services:** In the early years, their focus
was primarily on providing emergency care and advocacy for
children in Jackson County. Today, they offer a comprehensive
range of services and resources to children in Jackson, George and
Greene Counties;

- **A Network of Partners:** CASA has built strong
partnerships with Child Protective Services, Youth Court staff,
local schools, law enforcement, health care providers, and other
community organizations to create a robust support network for
children and families;

- **Increased Awareness and Advocacy:** Over the years, their
advocacy efforts have helped raise awareness about child abuse
during the month of April and the long-lasting effects of trauma,
pushing for systemic changes in how children are treated and
supported at the local, state and national levels;

- **Serving Thousands of Children:** Since their inception,
they have been privileged to help thousands of children regain
their sense of safety, stability and hope for the future. Through
their programs, they've also been able to empower countless



children to overcome their challenges and thrive in safe,
permanent, loving homes; and

WHEREAS, it is our shared responsibility as a community to
stand united in protecting the well-being of our most vulnerable
children, ensuring that they live free from fear, harm and
neglect, and they are provided with the resources and care they
need to build healthy futures; and

WHEREAS, during this month, we honor the dedication of
nonprofit organizations, social workers, law enforcement,
educators, health professionals, and all who are committed to
protecting children from abuse and neglect and raising awareness
about the impact of such trauma on individuals and society at
large; and

WHEREAS, the 40-year legacy of CASA of Southeast Mississippi
exemplifies the power of community, compassion and collective
action in creating a world where every child is safe, loved and
supported in their journey to adulthood:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
we do hereby designate the month of April 2025 as "Child Abuse
Awareness Month," and celebrate the 40th Anniversary of CASA of
Southeast Mississippi's unwavering dedication to children and
families. May this milestone serve as both a reflection of the
progress we have made, and a reminder of the ongoing work needed
to ensure that all children grow up free from abuse and neglect.



68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
69 the Board of Directors of CASA of Southeast Mississippi and
70 forwarded to the Secretary of State for appropriate distribution,
71 and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

