

Proclamation

WHEREAS, those who choose to advocate on behalf of those who cannot represent themselves are the truest of public servants; and,

WHEREAS, children are some of our state's most vulnerable citizens. Author and Nobel Prize winner Pearl Buck once reminded us that "If our American way of life fails the child, it fails us all". When children are abused, they rely on community advocates to make sure that they are not failed by the system and that they are provided with adequate court, medical and mental health services; and,

WHEREAS, Children's Advocacy Centers have been a part of legislation since the Children's Advocacy Act of 1989; and,

WHEREAS, Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois (CACI), a chapter of the National Children's Alliance, have been providing support services to abused children since 1995. CACI is a network of centers that provide comprehensive responses to allegations of child abuse and they have become a leading resource on child abuse issues throughout the State of Illinois; and,

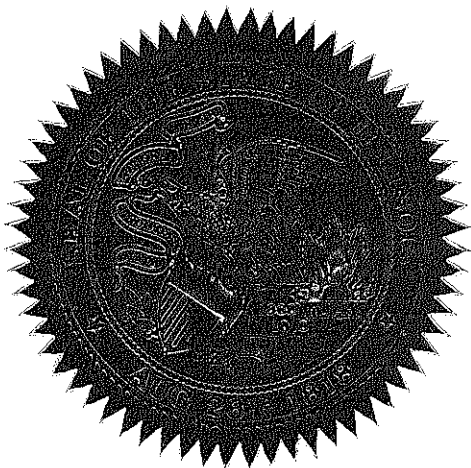
WHEREAS, CACI's purpose is to provide oversight, training, education, and legislative support for the Children's Advocacy Centers throughout Illinois. They do this through their three guiding principles: leadership, education and collaboration; and,

WHEREAS, Children's Advocacy Centers provide coordination of a multidisciplinary team of interviewers, advocacy for court, medical and mental health and forensic interviewing in order to eliminate the need for multiple interviews of a child victim disclosing abuse. Last year, Children's Advocacy Centers interviewed and facilitated support for more than 10,000 Illinois children; and,

WHEREAS, On May 14, in 29 cities across the State of Illinois, CACI will hold awareness walks on behalf of abused children and Children's Advocacy Centers throughout Illinois; and,

THEREFORE, I Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim May 14 **CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN DAY** in Illinois, on behalf of children throughout Illinois and in recognition of the contributions of CACI Advocacy Centers throughout the Land of Lincoln.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
this SECOND day of MARCH , in
the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
 ELEVEN , and of the State of Illinois
the one hundred and NINETY-THIRD

Deese White
SECRETARY OF STATE

Pat Quinn
GOVERNOR