

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2011

SR 27

4
5 By: Senator Files
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7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

8 TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE C.A.L.L. IN ARKANSAS FOR
9 ITS ACHIEVEMENTS AND SERVICES TO THE CHILDREN OF THE
10 STATE OF ARKANSAS IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM.
11

12 **Subtitle**

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14 TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE C.A.L.L. IN
15 ARKANSAS FOR ITS ACHIEVEMENTS AND
16 SERVICES TO THE CHILDREN OF THE STATE OF
17 ARKANSAS IN THE FOSTER CARE
18 SYSTEM.
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20
21 WHEREAS, the Children of Arkansas Loved for a Lifetime ministry, more
22 commonly known as the "The C.A.L.L.," is an unprecedented collaboration
23 between the Division of Children and Family Services of the Department of
24 Human Services and Arkansas Christian churches; and
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26 WHEREAS, Governor Mike Beebe stated in 2007 that a top priority of his
27 administration would be to improve the foster care system in Arkansas; and
28

29 WHEREAS, The C.A.L.L. has garnered national attention because of its
30 grassroots-volunteer, low-cost model for recruiting, training, and supporting
31 foster and adoptive families and other volunteers to engage in caring for
32 children in the foster care system; and
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34 WHEREAS, The C.A.L.L.'s mission is to educate, equip, and encourage the
35 Christian community to provide a future and a hope to children in foster care
36 in Arkansas. The C.A.L.L.'s vision is to have no waiting children in foster



1 care in Arkansas, but instead to have waiting families ready to take them in;
2 and
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4 WHEREAS, The C.A.L.L. model was developed first in Pulaski County in
5 2007 with the intention of replicating it in all seventy-five (75) counties
6 in Arkansas by engaging volunteers who are passionate about the plight of
7 children in foster care in their local community; and
8

9 WHEREAS, during the first three (3) years of its existence, The
10 C.A.L.L. launched local organizations in Arkansas, Benton, Cleburne, Conway,
11 Crawford, Faulkner, Fulton, Izard, Jefferson, Johnson, Lonoke, Ouachita,
12 Prairie, Pulaski, Saline, Sebastian, Sharp, Union, Washington, and White
13 Counties; and
14

15 WHEREAS, The C.A.L.L. raises awareness about children in foster care
16 and the need for a greater number of stable, loving foster and adoptive homes
17 to serve Arkansas children in foster care. More than five hundred (500)
18 children in Arkansas foster care are currently available for adoption and
19 waiting for a "forever" family; and
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21 WHEREAS, each year between six and seven thousand children spend time
22 in the Arkansas foster care system and only about nine hundred fifty (950)
23 foster families are available. Many children must be placed in emergency
24 shelters and residential facilities, or simply be moved from home to home,
25 causing Arkansas to have the second highest rate in the nation for placement
26 moves of children in foster care; and
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28 WHEREAS, since 2007, The C.A.L.L. has recruited more than six hundred
29 (600) families to serve as foster, adoptive, or respite care families for
30 children in foster care; and
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32 WHEREAS, one hundred thirty-two (132) foster homes recruited by The
33 C.A.L.L. are currently available to care for Arkansas's children in foster
34 care. One hundred thirty (130) adoptive homes recruited by The C.A.L.L. have
35 been certified statewide and are in the process of adopting a child from
36 foster care. Twenty five (25) respite family homes recruited by The C.A.L.L.

1 are headed by full-time foster parents. Two hundred thirty-six (236)
2 families recruited by The C.A.L.L. are in the process of being certified to
3 serve as foster, adoptive, or respite care homes; and
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5 WHEREAS, since 2008, more than fifty (50) children in Arkansas have
6 been adopted out of foster care and into a "forever" family. Since 2007,
7 more than six hundred eighty (680) Arkansas children have been welcomed into
8 loving foster and adoptive homes through The C.A.L.L.; and
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10 WHEREAS, in its first three (3) years, The C.A.L.L. mobilized more than
11 five hundred (500) volunteers who have spent more than 122,000 hours in
12 service to children in the foster system,
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14 NOW THEREFORE,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
16 STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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18 THAT the Senate recognizes and commends the Children of Arkansas Loved
19 for a Lifetime, "The C.A.L.L.," for its loving service to the children of the
20 State of Arkansas in the foster care system, and praises its hard work and
21 dedication to respond to its own noble "call!"
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