

1 State of Arkansas
2 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007

HCR 1029

4
5 By: Representative Schulte

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8 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

9 A RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE CHURCHES AND OTHER
10 RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS TO MAKE THE SAFETY AND
11 WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN A PRIORITY BY ADOPTING
12 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO REQUIRE ALL EMPLOYEES
13 AND VOLUNTEERS TO UNDERGO CRIMINAL BACKGROUND
14 CHECKS AND CENTRAL REGISTRY CHECKS PRIOR TO THEIR
15 EMPLOYMENT OR SERVICE IN A LEADERSHIP CAPACITY.

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17 **Subtitle**

18 TO ENCOURAGE CHURCHES AND OTHER
19 RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS TO MAKE THE
20 SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN A
21 PRIORITY BY CONDUCTING CRIMINAL
22 BACKGROUND CHECKS AND CENTRAL REGISTRY
23 CHECKS ON EMPLOYEES.

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26 WHEREAS, approximately sixty percent (60%) of sexual offenders were
27 already under conditional supervision within their community at the time of
28 their offense; and

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30 WHEREAS, ninety percent (90%) of rapes of children twelve (12) years of
31 age or younger were committed by someone the child already knew; and

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33 WHEREAS, more people who are employed by or perform volunteer services
34 in a leadership capacity in churches or other religious organizations are
35 being asked to step down because of allegations of inappropriate conduct
36 towards children in the churches; and



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WHEREAS, churches and other religious organizations are places where people go to feel safe and secure; and

WHEREAS, employees and volunteers at churches and other religious organizations are people that members and visitors of the church naturally trust with the responsibility of protecting their children from harm; and

WHEREAS, families expect their children to be safe from any sort of physical or sexual abuse while in church or church-related activities; and

WHEREAS, that churches and other religious organizations are authorized to request and receive information regarding the qualifications of volunteers who work with children under the Criminal History for Volunteers Act, Arkansas Code § 12-12-1601 et seq., which was Act 1778 of 2005,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Eighty-sixth General Assembly of the State of Arkansas encourages each and every church and other religious organization to place the safety and well-being of children first by adopting policies and procedures that require all employees and volunteers to undergo criminal background checks and central registry checks prior to their employment or service in a leadership capacity over children.