

## House Concurrent Resolution No. 5054

By Representative Lightner

3-21

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging participation in National Adoption Day.

WHEREAS, There are about 600,000 children in foster care in the United States, and there are more than 134,000 children in our country waiting to be adopted. Since 1993 November has been proclaimed by the President as National Adoption Month to focus attention on the increasing number of children in the child welfare system waiting for permanent families. In 2001, the United States Department of Health and Human Services gave 14 awards as part of its Adoption Excellence Awards to various states, businesses and organizations which have helped abandoned, neglected or abused children find permanent homes. But as President Bush stated in his 2001 proclamation for National Adoption Month, the quiet heroes in this process are the adoptive parents who answer a special calling to share a loving home with children and to offer the children hope for a brighter future; and

WHEREAS, On November 16, 2001, lawyers and judges in 16 cities across the nation recently volunteered their time to complete more than 1,500 adoptions on the second annual National Adoption Day. This event is sponsored by the Alliance for Children's Rights, an organization located in Los Angeles, California. Their action is spurred in part by statistics revealing that about 1/6 of foster children are removed from their homes because of abuse, nearly 50 percent will never finish high school and nearly 1/3 will spend time in jail: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, the Senate concurring therein:* That the Legislature urges the judges of our various courts and the members of the Kansas Bar Association to participate in the events of National Adoption Day as it transpires in their respective communities; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of State provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Chief Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court and to the President of the Kansas Bar Association.