

Senator Meekhof offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 54.

A resolution commemorating May 13, 2015, as Children's Advocacy Day and recognizing the Children's Trust Fund for its effort to work towards preventing child abuse and neglect in Michigan.

Whereas, Established by the Michigan Legislature through 1982 PA 249 and 1982 PA 250, the Children's Trust Fund is Michigan's only independent statewide nonprofit agency coordinating a statewide network and staff and volunteers who prevent child abuse and neglect; and

Whereas, The Children's Trust Fund's work begins each day when 85 of our youngest Michiganders--infants and children--are put at serious risk because of abuse or neglect. Almost 200,000 children lived in a family that was investigated for suspected abuse or neglect--a staggering 41 percent increase from 2005 to 2013; and

Whereas, Michigan's struggle to protect our children is not just about numbers, but also about adults struggling and striving to make the right choices and whose decisions directly affect the children around them; and

Whereas, Far too many of these adults face challenges that range from substance abuse to behavioral illnesses to joblessness--challenges that bring them to the attention of the child welfare system for a grievous number of these families; and

Whereas, Protecting our children often means stepping in early and providing the adults in their lives with the resources, support, and solutions that can help them make better decisions; and

Whereas, The Children's Trust Fund is the only statewide agency coordinating programs that serve every county to prevent abuse and neglect before they happen. This is achieved through proactive programs and interventions, as well as professionals and trained specialists working with families so they understand and respond to their children's developmental needs and are connected to the support of family and community; and

Whereas, The Children's Trust Fund provides assistance every day in communities all across Michigan, using a research-based approach that builds on parental resilience, promotes community and social connections, and links families to support. This assistance not only improves the well-being of our children, but also saves lives in many cases; and

Whereas, The Children's Trust Fund conducts its work primarily through donations, including annual events such as the Pam Posthumus Signature Auction Event on May 13 in Lansing, designed to generate revenue for its many programs; and

Whereas, Across Michigan, thousands of children and their families with few resources are getting help through the Children's Trust Fund; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative body recognize May 13, 2015, as Children's Advocacy Day and the Children's Trust Fund for the importance of its function in protecting our children. We extend to all those associated with the Children's Trust Fund and the auction event our sincere appreciation for their commitment to this important cause; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Children's Trust Fund with our highest esteem.