

By Senator Berman

26-00136-23

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing November 2023, and each November thereafter, as "Family Court Awareness Month" in Florida.

WHEREAS, in 2021, 4-year-old Greyson Kessler was shot and killed by his biological father during an approved court visit, despite his father's history of abusive behavior and a plea to the court from his mother, Ali Kessler, to protect him, and

WHEREAS, to help honor Greyson Kessler's life and the lives of the estimated 58,000 children annually who are at risk due to being ordered into unsupervised visitation with an abusive parent, a national coalition of organizations launched a nationwide movement to seek the designation of November as Family Court Awareness Month, and

WHEREAS, the mission of that coalition, the Family Court Awareness Month Committee, is to provide judges and other family court professionals with current empirical data and research, which are critical components in making judicial determinations that are in the best interest of children, and

WHEREAS, the committee's mission is fueled by the desire for awareness and change in the family court system and to honor the lives of the more than 800 children reported murdered in the United States by separating or divorcing parents, and

WHEREAS, in at least 110 of those cases, the courts heard direct pleas to intervene before the crime occurred, and

WHEREAS, the recognition of Family Court Awareness Month is intended to increase awareness of the importance of education and training on family violence, childhood trauma, and

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30 postseparation abuse for all professionals working within the
31 family court system, NOW, THEREFORE,

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33 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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35 That November 2023, and each November thereafter, is
36 recognized as "Family Court Awareness Month" in Florida.