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LRB-3431/1 EG:klm

## 2017 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 51

May 9, 2017 - Introduced by Senators Johnson, Darling, Carpenter, Wirch, L. Taylor and Bewley, cosponsored by Representatives Bowen, Steineke, Wachs, Pope, Milroy, Kolste, Ohnstad, Neylon, Katsma, Spreitzer, Anderson, Kitchens, Brostoff, Crowley, Kessler, Berceau, Fields, Horlacher, Sinicki and Considine. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

**Relating to:** declaring May 2017 as Foster Care Awareness Month.

Whereas, we must work to increase public awareness about foster care, which provided homes for an estimated 428,000 children in the United States in 2015, with 7,000 in Wisconsin alone; and

Whereas, children in the foster care system range from ages 0 to 18, or 20 for students with disabilities, and vary in behavioral and emotional support needs; and

Whereas, foster parents provide a nurturing and stable environment for the children in their care and should be recognized for their dedication; and

Whereas, every child, regardless of race, creed, or socioeconomic status, deserves a safe and secure home; and

Whereas, home stability has a lasting impact on child development and education, both of which are top priorities of this state; and

Whereas, during Foster Care Awareness Month, we can encourage our families, friends, and neighbors to consider opening their homes to those without; and

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Whereas, as we observe Foster Care Awareness Month in May, we renew our commitment to raising awareness of the needs of foster care programs in the hopes that one day no child will feel uneasy or unsafe when they go to bed at night; now therefore, be it

\*Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That\* the members of the Wisconsin Legislature declare May 2017 to be Foster Care Awareness Month.

(END)