

THE CITY OF WARWICK
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

NO..... DATE.....

APPROVED.....MAYOR

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REVIEW AND
CONSIDER ADOPTING PROVISIONS OF THE KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE FROM
FAMILY VIOLENCE ACT, ALSO KNOWN AS “KAYDEN’S LAW”

Resolved that,

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Warwick are matters of paramount importance to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Keeping Children Safe From Family Violence Act, also known as “Kayden’s Law”, was enacted as part of the 2022 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Reauthorization (P.L. 117-103, Division W, Title XV), attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, “Kayden’s Law” is named after Kayden Mancuso, a 7-year-old girl who was murdered by her father during court-ordered unsupervised custody time, which was granted despite the mother raising concerns and submitting evidence to the court of the father’s abusive, violent history; and

WHEREAS, the purposes of “Kayden’s Law” are to:

- 1) Increase the priority given to child safety in any State court divorce, separation, visitation, paternity, child support, civil protection order, or family custody court proceeding affecting the custody and care of children, excluding child protective, abuse, or neglect proceedings and juvenile justice proceedings;
- 2) Strengthen the abilities of courts to: A) Recognize and adjudicate domestic violence and child abuse allegations based on valid, admissible evidence; and B) Enter orders that protect and minimize the risk of harm to children; and
- 3) Ensure that professional personnel involved in cases containing domestic violence or child abuse allegations receive trauma-informed and culturally appropriate training on the dynamics, signs, and impact of the domestic violence and child abuse, including child sexual abuse; and

1 WHEREAS, “Kayden’s Law” provides grants to states that adopt certain changes to child
2 custody hearings involving child abuse and require certain standards for judicial training related
3 to domestic and sexual violence as well as child abuse, including:
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- 5 1) Restricting expert testimony to only those who are appropriately qualified to provide
6 it;
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- 8 2) Limiting the use of reunification camps and therapies which cannot be proven to be
9 safe and effective;
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- 11 3) Providing evidence-based ongoing training to judges and court personnel on family
12 violence subject matters; and
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- 14 4) Requiring that family courts consider the existence of protection from abuse orders
15 when making custody; and
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17 WHEREAS, the Warwick City Council desires that the Senators and Representatives of
18 the General Assembly review and consider adopting provisions of the Keeping Children Safe From
19 Family Violence Act, also known as “Kayden’s Law”.
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21 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Warwick City Council hereby
22 respectfully requests the General Assembly to review and consider adopting provisions of the
23 Keeping Children Safe From Family Violence Act, also known as “Kayden’s Law”, attached
24 hereto as Exhibit A.
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26 The City Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the
27 Representatives and Senators from the City of Warwick, and the Members of the House and Senate
28 Committees on the Judiciary.
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30 This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.
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33 SPONSORED BY: COUNCILMAN SINAPI
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36 COMMITTEE: INTERGOVERNMENTAL