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BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF FRESNO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. 17-512

**IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAIMING NOVEMBER 2017)
AS "NATIONAL RUNAWAY PREVENTION MONTH")**

WHEREAS, November is National Runaway Prevention Month. In partnership with National Runaway Safeline and Youth Services, Fresno EOC Sanctuary is committed to protecting our nation's most valuable asset, our youth; and ending youth homelessness by 2020; and

WHEREAS, There were 11,904 crisis connections made from California to the National Runaway Safeline in 2016. For Fresno, there were 766 crisis connections made by youth who were provided with help and safety; and

WHEREAS, Fresno EOC Sanctuary and Youth Services provides a "continuum of care" to assist runaway, displaced, and homeless youth with successful transition from adolescence to adulthood by operating an emergency and transitional shelter for youth in crisis, providing a Drop-In Center for homeless and runaway youth, and maintaining 270 Safe Place sites to facilitate youth access to shelter and services; and

WHEREAS, In California, nearly 300,000 youth up to age 18 experience homelessness, and the Department of Justice reports 4,030 children were reported missing in Fresno County in 2016; and over 5,000 children in Fresno County schools who are homeless; and

WHEREAS, Between 1.6 and 2.8 million youth run away in a year in the United States; True Colors reports Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth comprise up to 40% of the homeless youth population in the United States, yet they make up only 7% of the general youth population. LGBTQ youth experience homelessness for a variety of reasons including homophobia & transphobia, issues with family, poverty, and abuse in the home; and

WHEREAS, By working together, we can prevent the situations that compel youth to run away from home by teaching youth and their families awareness, stress management, communication skills and providing resources; and

WHEREAS, The County of Fresno supports efforts of Fresno EOC Sanctuary and Youth Services in working to increase public awareness about, advocate on behalf of, and provide positive and safe alternatives to runaway and homeless youth and their families.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims November 2017 as "National Runaway Prevention Month" in the County of Fresno

