

**RESOLUTION # \_\_\_\_\_**

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING NOVEMBER 2023 AS NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, November is National Adoption Month. Over 117,000 children and youth across the country are in foster care waiting a forever family. For teenagers at risk of aging out of foster care, it is just as important to secure a permanent sense of belonging; and

**WHEREAS**, this year, during national adoption month, the Children's Bureau within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services urges us to focus on how small steps open doors for youth along their journey toward permanency. Asking youth what's important to them, telling them you have their back, and keeping an open mind are some small, yet impactful, actions that can build trust and lead to meaningful conversations that uncover possibilities for permanency; and

**WHEREAS**, it does not always take a time-intensive intervention to make a difference in a young person's life. Instead taking small steps can have large impacts in engaging youth in permanency planning and can help lead to positive outcomes. These steps can help build trust and ultimately guide a young person toward a brighter future; and

**WHEREAS**, during the annual observance of adoption month, many Wyoming families celebrate the completion of adoption of children from foster care and other types of adoptions. In the last calendar year, the Wyoming Department of Family Services and the Wyoming certified adoption agencies helped facilitate approximately 108 children adopted into permanent families; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wyoming Department of Family Services helped facilitate 74 guardianships for children and families; and

**WHEREAS**, the Confidential Intermediary Program helped facilitate reunifications of family members touched by adoption, with approximately 6 confidential intermediary petitions filed in Wyoming courts statewide, searching for their family members; and

**WHEREAS**, by taking advantage of every opportunity to engage youth in meaningful ways, professionals and family can be the keys to open doors that had once seemed impossible.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board of Laramie County Commissioners do hereby proclaim the month of November 2023 as NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH.

**PRESENTED, READ AND ADOPTED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023.**

**BOARD OF LARAMIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Laramie County Commissioners

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra Lee, Laramie County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Laramie County Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date