STATE OF DELAWARE

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATEMENT
IN OBSERVANCE OF
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF IN RE GAULT

Whereas, in 1967 Gerald Gault, a 15 year old boy, was taken into police custody without his parents being notified, was never advised of his Constitutional rights, including his right to appointed counsel, and, ultimately, was sentenced to nearly six years in a state youth correctional agency for allegedly making a prank call; and

Whereas, in a landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision, *In re Gault*, 387 U.S. 1 (1967) the Court found that the Constitutional guarantee of due process applies even when children are charged as delinquents; and

Whereas, children charged with delinquency are entitled to legal representation because as the Court found, a child requires the guiding hand of counsel at every step in the proceedings against him; and

Whereas, children charged with delinquency are entitled to a timely notification of charges, the right against self-incrimination, and the right to question witnesses; and

Whereas, the Delaware Office of Defense Services provides legal representation to all juveniles in all criminal and delinquency matters in Delaware; and

Whereas, the year 2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision of *In re Gault.*

Now, Therefore, We, John Carney, Governor,
and Bethany Hall-Long, Lieutenant Governor,
do hereby recognize
2017 as the

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF IN RE GAULT

in the State of Delaware, and encourage all Delawareans to recognize the legacy and importance of the *Gault* decision, the necessity of providing due process to all children accused of a crime or an act of delinquency in Delaware, and the continuing mission of the Delaware Office of Defense Services to provide legal representation to every child charged with an act of delinquency.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR · JOHN C. CARNEY

John C. Carney
John C. Carney
Governor

Bethany A. Hall-Long
Bethany Hall-Long
Lieutenant Governor

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Number