



## *Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation*

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Whereas, Alaska's children deserve to grow up in a safe and nurturing environment to assure they reach their full potential;

Whereas, Alaska has one of the highest child abuse rates in the nation with 15,462 reports of suspected abuse to the Division of Family and Youth Services last year;

Whereas, the effects of child abuse and neglect are realized throughout the community, addressing child abuse challenges us to work together to involve the entire community in preventing child abuse and strengthening families;

Whereas, all citizens have a responsibility to help families nurture, support and protect their children to assure all children are safe from abuse and neglect;

Whereas, all citizens should be aware of the impact of child abuse and its prevention within the community, and be involved in supporting parents to raise their children in a safe, nurturing environment;

Whereas, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among social service agencies, schools, religious and civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, families, caregivers and the business community;

Now, therefore, I \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in \_\_\_\_\_ and call upon all citizens to increase their participation in our efforts to prevent child abuse, thereby strengthening the communities in which we live.

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Signed

