



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Tennessee's future prosperity depends on nurturing the healthy development of over 4 million children currently living, growing, and learning within our many diverse communities; and

WHEREAS, research shows that safe and nurturing relationships and stimulating and stable environments improve brain development and child wellbeing, while neglectful or abusive experiences and unstable or stressful environments increase the odds of poor childhood outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the abuse and neglect of children can cause severe, costly, and lifelong problems affecting all of society, including physical and mental health problems, school failure, and criminal behavior; and

WHEREAS, research also shows that parents and caregivers who have social networks and know how to seek help in times of trouble are more resilient and better able to provide safe environments and nurturing experiences for their children; and

WHEREAS, individuals, businesses, schools, and faith-based and community organizations must make children a top priority and take action to support the physical, social, emotional, and educational development and competency of all children; and

WHEREAS, during the month of April, Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee, along with the Tennessee Children's Trust Fund and Child Abuse Prevention partners across Tennessee, will be engaging in communities throughout Tennessee in a coordinated effort to prevent child abuse and neglect by promoting awareness of healthy child development, positive parenting practices, and the types of concrete support families need within their communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim April, 2017 as

Child Abuse Prevention Month

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this twenty-eighth day of February, 2017.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Joe Bergitt in blue ink.

Secretary of State