



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 well-being, 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 Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim April 2019 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 sixth day of February, 2019.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Joe R. Bergin*

Secretary of State