



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, everyone in the State of Tennessee has a role to play in promoting the social and emotional well-being of children and families in our communities; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect are serious problems affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

WHEREAS, in state fiscal year 2020, 138,747 calls were made to the Department of Children's Services Child Abuse Hotline; and

WHEREAS, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse; and

WHEREAS, the most important thing we can do to help children thrive is to support families before they reach a crisis; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities and training succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community, faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Children's Services acknowledges that we must all work together to increase awareness about child abuse and create safe and healthy environments for children where they can live with supportive families and engaged communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim April 2021 as

Child Abuse Prevention Month

in Tennessee and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.

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 thirtieth day of March, 2021.

Bill Lee

Governor

John R. Ragsdale

Secretary of State

