

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

- WHEREAS, South Carolina's future prosperity and quality of life depend on the healthy development of the more than 1.1 million children residing in the diverse communities across our state; and
- WHEREAS, preventing child abuse and neglect must be a priority that requires individuals, families, child-serving organizations, schools, faith-based groups, businesses, government agencies, and civic leaders to support the physical, emotional, social, and educational well-being of all children; and
- WHEREAS, child abuse is a serious public health issue with wide-ranging societal consequences, as data show the link between the abuse and neglect of children and a wide range of costly medical, emotional, psychological, and behavioral issues into adulthood; and
- WHEREAS, parents and caregivers who have a support system of family and friends, know where to find public resources, and understand how to remain resilient in challenging times are best equipped to provide safe, nurturing environments for their children; and
- WHEREAS, statewide and community prevention programs serve as proven and effective ways to reduce child abuse and neglect no matter the geographic region, race or ethnicity, or economic status; and
- WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2019 - 2020, there were 8,927 founded Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations in South Carolina.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2021 as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to dedicate themselves to protecting the quality of life for every child.



HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA