

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** South Carolina's future prosperity and quality of life depend on the healthy development of the 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 2018, there were 20,198 children in founded investigations of child maltreatment in South Carolina.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2019 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**