

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

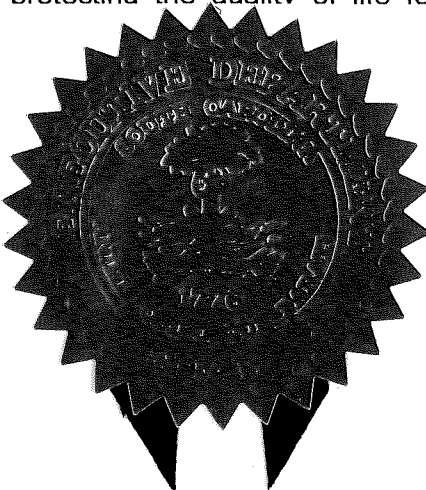
WHEREAS, statewide and community prevention programs serve as proven and effective ways to reduce child abuse and neglect no matter the geographic region, race or ethnicity, or economic status; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2020 - 2021, there were 8,944 founded Child Protective Services investigations with 15,980 children in those founded investigations in South Carolina.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2022 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.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry McMaster", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA