

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-198

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

April 2, 2023

To declare April 2023 as “Child Abuse Prevention Month” in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Child Abuse Prevention Month, first commemorated in 1983, recognizes the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect and promotes the social and emotional well-being of children and families;

WHEREAS, every child has the right to develop and mature in a safe, secure, and supportive environment, free from violence, victimization, and neglect;

WHEREAS, in federal fiscal year 2021, 3.9 million reports were made to child protective services;

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

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

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children;

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of partnerships created within communities, human service agencies, schools, faith-based and community organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families;

WHEREAS, the District recognizes the impact of bringing awareness to this issue, which unfortunately many District children and youth experience;

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WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment;

WHEREAS, the Child and Family Services Agency, through the Keeping DC Families Together Initiative, promotes the well-being of families and works to prevent child abuse through promising policies, practices, and partnerships; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the District of Columbia thanks and recognizes the community partners who work to prevent the tragedy of child abuse and neglect before it happens and keep the children of the District healthy and whole.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Child Abuse Prevention Month Recognition Resolution of 2023”.

Sec. 2. The Council declares April 2023 as “Child Abuse Prevention Month” in the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.