

2019 -- H 5961

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING APRIL, 2019, AS "CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH" IN THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Roberts, Chippendale, Nardone, Quattrocchi, and Filippi

Date Introduced: April 04, 2019

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Anyone who does anything to help a child in need is a hero; and

2 WHEREAS, Annually, the month of April is designated as National Child Abuse
3 Prevention Month in order to "recognize the importance of families and communities working
4 together to prevent child abuse and neglect and promotes the social and emotional well-being of
5 children and families"; and

6 WHEREAS, Child abuse includes physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. Child neglect is
7 defined as emotional, educational, physical, and medical neglect, as well as a failure to provide
8 for basic needs; and

9 WHEREAS, Children are the most vulnerable among us and everything that can be done
10 must be done to ensure that they are treated with dignity and respect, and have the opportunity to
11 pursue their dreams in secure and healthy environments; and

12 WHEREAS, Every child deserves to be loved, nurtured, and safe. Parents, family
13 members, teachers, and other caregivers profoundly shape children's lives and it is essential that
14 they be the child's first line of defense; and

15 WHEREAS, According to RI KIDS COUNT, in 2017 in Rhode Island, there were 2,404
16 indicated investigations of child abuse and neglect involving 3,357 children; and

17 WHEREAS, About 52 percent of the victims of child abuse and neglect in 2017 were
18 young children under age six and 34 percent were ages three and younger; and

19 WHEREAS, In the words of author and survivor Dave Pelzer, "Childhood should be

1 carefree, playing in the sun; not living a nightmare in the darkness of the soul"; now, therefore be
2 it

3 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
4 Providence Plantations hereby commemorates April, 2019, as "Child Abuse Prevention Month"
5 and urges all Rhode Islanders to support efforts that promote children's psychological, physical,
6 and emotional development; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
8 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Gina Raimondo, Governor of the
9 State of Rhode Island, and the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and
10 Families.

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