

**Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R16-1056.01 Jessica Wigent x3701

SJR16-025

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Newell,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Singer,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 16-025

101 **CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2016 AS "CHILD ABUSE**
102 **PREVENTION MONTH".**

1 WHEREAS, Children are key to Colorado's future success,
2 prosperity, and quality of life; while children are our most precious
3 resource, they are also our most vulnerable; and

4 WHEREAS, Child abuse and neglect is a serious and reprehensible
5 problem in our society; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2014, there were nearly 10,000 confirmed cases of
7 child abuse and neglect in Colorado, and 20 children died as a result; in
8 the United States there were over 700,000 confirmed cases of child abuse
9 and neglect, and 1,580 children died as a result; and

*Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1 WHEREAS, Groundbreaking studies, like the Adverse Childhood
2 Experiences Study, have revealed the significant, increased long-term
3 health and mental health risks to children exposed to traumatic adverse
4 experiences, including heart disease, chronic lung disease, liver disease,
5 and suicide; and

6 WHEREAS, This research shows that the impacts of child abuse
7 and neglect on our children and our society are even greater than we
8 previously thought and that we must begin a new dialogue and evolve
9 how we think and talk about child abuse and neglect; and

10 WHEREAS, Preventing and treating child abuse and neglect must
11 be a high priority in our communities, our state, and the nation at large;
12 children have a right to be safe and to have the opportunity to thrive,
13 learn, and grow; and

14 WHEREAS, We, as a community, must come together to extend
15 a helping hand to children and families in need, so that their voices are
16 heard by all; and

17 WHEREAS, By providing safe, stable, and nurturing relationships
18 and environments for our children, free of violence, abuse, and neglect,
19 we can ensure that Colorado children will grow to their full potential as
20 the next generation of leaders, helping to secure the future of this state
21 and nation; now, therefore

22 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventieth General Assembly*
23 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

24 (1) That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly,
25 proclaim April 2016 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in the state of
26 Colorado;

27 (2) That we encourage every person to perform a positive act each
28 day on behalf of children; and

29 (3) That we call upon all citizens, community and faith-based
30 organizations, businesses, and government agencies to create alliances to
31 increase their efforts to strengthen Colorado families and to prevent child
32 abuse and neglect, thereby strengthening the communities of this state.

33 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent

1 to Governor John Hickenlooper; The Kempe Center; Illuminate Colorado;
2 Prevent Child Abuse Colorado; the Colorado Department of Human
3 Services; Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment;
4 CASA in Colorado; the Colorado Children's Campaign; Rocky Mountain
5 Children's Law Center; Colorado Nurse-Family Partnership; the Office
6 of the Child Protection Ombudsman; and Children's Hospital Colorado.