



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 16-025

BY SENATOR(S) Newell, Aguilar, Baumgardner, Carroll, Cooke, Crowder, Donovan, Garcia, Grantham, Guzman, Heath, Hill, Hodge, Holbert, Jahn, Johnston, Jones, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Neville T., Roberts, Scheffel, Scott, Sonnenberg, Steadman, Tate, Todd, Ulibarri, Woods, Cadman; also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Singer, Arndt, Becker K., Brown, Buckner, Carver, Conti, Court, Danielson, DelGrosso, Duran, Esgar, Everett, Fields, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Hamner, Kagan, Klingenschmitt, Kraft-Tharp, Lebsock, Lee, Leonard, Lontine, McCann, Melton, Mitsch Bush, Moreno, Pabon, Pettersen, Primavera, Priola, Rosenthal, Roupe, Ryden, Salazar, Sias, Thurlow, Tyler, Van Winkle, Vigil, Willett, Williams, Windholz, Winter, Wist, Young, Hullinghorst.

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

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

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

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

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

and suicide; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to Governor John Hickenlooper; The Kempe Center; Illuminate Colorado; Prevent Child Abuse Colorado; the Colorado Department of Human Services; Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; CASA in Colorado; the Colorado Children's Campaign; Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center; Colorado Nurse-Family Partnership; the Office of the Child Protection Ombudsman; and Children's Hospital Colorado.

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