



SR0802

LRB103 39705 ECR 70137 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Child abuse and neglect is a major social problem in Illinois; according to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Child Maltreatment Report for 2022, 35,330 neglect and maltreatment cases were reported in Illinois in 2022, and 1,955 child fatalities were reported nationally in 2022; and

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WHEREAS, It is estimated that more than 100,000 cases of abuse go unreported each year; the impact of abuse on children manifests itself in various ways; the affected children may experience a range of emotional, psychological, and physical trauma resulting from abuse or neglect; and

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WHEREAS, There are various organizations and agencies devoted to combatting this concern; such groups seek to provide preventative solutions and possible exit strategies to at-risk youth and victimized children; and

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WHEREAS, In 1982, Congress designated June 6-12 as National Child Abuse Prevention Week; the following year, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed April to be the first National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a tradition that continues to this day; and

1 WHEREAS, Illinois law requires that mandated reporters,
2 including most professionals employed within education,
3 healthcare, law enforcement, and social work sectors, report
4 suspected child neglect or abuse; and

5 WHEREAS, Healthcare professionals and concerned private
6 parties continue to educate parents and raise awareness of
7 child abuse within the State; and

8 WHEREAS, Effective preventative measures concerning child
9 abuse succeed because of partnerships created between the
10 courts, social service agencies, schools, religious
11 organizations, law enforcement agencies, businesses, and
12 civilian communities; the establishment of an Illinois Child
13 Abuse Prevention Month would cohesively promote such
14 successful partnerships aiming to eradicate the social ill of
15 child abuse and neglect; and

16 WHEREAS, National Child Abuse Prevention Month promotes
17 the social and emotional well-being of children and families
18 and thus serves to acknowledge the importance of community
19 cooperation throughout the nation with respect to the
20 prevention of child abuse and neglect; the institution of an
21 Illinois Child Abuse Prevention Month would functionally
22 reiterate such principles within Illinois and would reinforce
23 Illinois' commitment to educating residents and helping

1 prevent any more children from being subjected to child abuse
2 and neglect; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare April 2024
5 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the State of Illinois.