

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, child maltreatment, including neglect and physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, is harm caused to a child by a parent, caretaker, or other person responsible for that child's safety; and

WHEREAS, children who are abused, neglected, or abandoned by their parents are at a significant risk of entering the foster care system; and

WHEREAS, preventing child maltreatment strengthens families and is less costly than providing for the physical, psychological, and emotional well-being of children who grow up in foster care; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect can lead to a wide range of medical, emotional, psychological, and behavioral challenges, such as unemployment, homelessness, failure to graduate from high school, juvenile delinquency, incarceration, teen pregnancy, depression, alcoholism, drug abuse, severe obesity, and the need for special education services; and

WHEREAS, partnerships among social service agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and businesses are an important part of effective child abuse prevention programs; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2013 as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to help ensure our children grow and develop free from neglect and physical, sexual, and emotional harm.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nikki R. Haley".

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA