

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** child maltreatment continues to be one of our nation's most serious public health problems, with over three million children reported as abused or neglected in our country each year; and

**WHEREAS,** children who are abused, neglected, or exploited are at a significant risk of entering the foster care system and suffering from a wide range of medical, emotional, psychological, and behavioral challenges; and

**WHEREAS,** every child deserves to grow up in a safe, loving, and stable family free from verbal, sexual, emotional, and physical abuse, exploitation, and neglect that violate a child's dignity, security, and stability; and

**WHEREAS,** the prevention of child abuse and neglect is a community issue that depends on the commitment of individuals, organizations, and government agencies to provide education, skills training, and support for parents in areas including child development, child safety, basic care skills, discipline strategies, and goal setting.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2016 as**

### **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to protect the safety and well-being of children of the Palmetto State.



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

**NIKKI R. HALEY**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**