**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE APRIL 2021 AS “CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH” IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO ENCOURAGE ALL SOUTH CAROLINIANS TO DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO PROTECTING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR EVERY CHILD.

Whereas, South Carolina’s future prosperity and quality of life depend on the healthy development of the more than 1.1 million children residing in diverse communities across our State; and

Whereas, preventing child abuse and neglect must be a priority that requires individuals, families, child-serving organizations, schools, faith-based groups, businesses, government agencies, and civic leaders to support the physical, emotional, social, and educational well-being of all children; and

Whereas, child abuse is a serious public health issue with wide-ranging societal consequences, as data show the link between the abuse and neglect of children and a wide range of costly medical, emotional, psychological, and behavioral issues into adulthood; and

Whereas, parents and caregivers who have a support system of family and friends, know where to find public resources, and understand how to remain resilient in challenging times are best equipped to provide safe, nurturing environments for their children; and

Whereas, statewide and community prevention programs serve as proven and effective ways to reduce child abuse and neglect no matter the geographic region, race or ethnicity, or economic status; and

Whereas, in Fiscal Year 2019-2020, there were 8,927 founded Child Protective Services investigations in South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize April 2021 as “Child Abuse Prevention Month” in South Carolina and encourage all South Carolinians to dedicate themselves to protecting the quality of life for every child.

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