

Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, strong families create strong communities and strong futures. Children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of the state of South Dakota's success, prosperity, and quality of life; and,

Whereas, child abuse and neglect are serious concerns, affecting every segment of our communities. Finding solutions requires input, vigilance, and action throughout the state; and,

Whereas, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and citizens of South Dakota; and,

Whereas, in the 2022 state fiscal year, over 16,000 reports of child abuse and neglect were received by the Division of Child Protection Services in South Dakota; and,

Whereas, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical consequences for victims of abuse, families, and even future generations; and,

Whereas, a strong community fosters a sense of love, nurture, and care among the children, and helps them to know they are secure from harm. Therefore, as South Dakotans seeking to ensure a strong community, it is vital that we increase the awareness of child abuse prevention and promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families. We do so with the understanding that prevention of abuse remains an essential function of preserving the bright future we hope for all children and families of our state:

Now, Therefore, I, Kristi Noem, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 2023, as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-third Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.

Kristi Noem
Kristi Noem, Governor

Attest:

Monae L. Johnson
Monae L. Johnson, Secretary of State