

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota Office of the Governor

Whereas, strong families are South Dakota's foundation. They are the primary influencers of children, the state's most valuable resource. Strong families shape the future of South Dakota's success, prosperity, and quality of life; and,

Whereas, child abuse and neglect is a serious issue throughout the state that negatively impacts all communities; and,

Whereas, child abuse, including neglect, typically leaves a child to suffer a combination of psychological, emotional, spiritual, and physical hurts. These hurts can last for the remainder of their lives; and,

Whereas, in fiscal year 2023, 16,272 reports of child abuse and neglect were made to the Division of Child Protection Services in South Dakota; and,

Whereas, every child should know that they are not alone. South Dakotans see them and are fighting diligently for their safety and well-being; and,

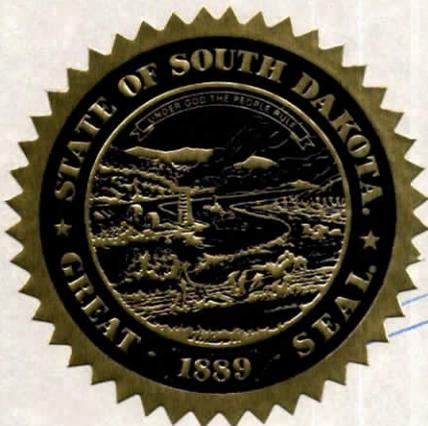
Whereas, it is vital to promote prevention efforts for the social and emotional well-being of children and families throughout our state. Prevention remains the best defense to ensure a bright future for our state's children and families; and,

Whereas, efforts to identify barriers to establishing and maintaining strong families are essential in our crusade to end abuse and neglect. The solutions for overcoming those barriers result in preventative efforts for families who are struggling. These efforts include raising awareness, empowering communities to recognize early signs of abuse, connecting families with resources such as substance use disorder therapy and positive parenting courses, and inviting other families to provide mentoring support:

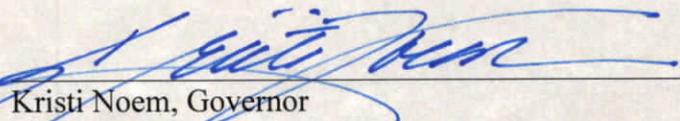
Now, Therefore, I, Kristi Noem, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 2024, as

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 Third Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.



Kristi Noem, Governor

Attest:



Monae L. Johnson, Secretary of State