Executive Proclamation  
State of South Dakota  
Office of the Governor

Whereas, every child deserves to grow up in a safe and loving home, and today's children will shape the future of South Dakota's success, prosperity, and quality of life; and,

Whereas, during the 2021 state fiscal year, more than 16,000 reports of child abuse and neglect were received by South Dakota's Division of Child Protection Services (CPS); and,

Whereas, prevention is vital because abuse and neglect causes not only short-term harm, but can also lead to long-term psychological, emotional, and physical consequences; and,

Whereas, effective child abuse prevention activities require teamwork between parents, child welfare professionals, schools, medical facilities, community and faith-based organizations, businesses, and law enforcement; and,

Whereas, South Dakota's Department of Social Services (DSS) helps provide support services for families, which include parenting classes for families in communities across South Dakota. Many other partners across the state also support parents, including South Dakota's 211 Helpline Center, community mental health centers, substance use disorder treatment services, and community organizations; and,

Whereas, children need us all to be aware of the signs of abuse and neglect, to be vigilant in watching for these signs, and to report it if we see something suspicious; and,

Whereas, prevention remains the best defense, and raising awareness about resources to help with prevention can protect children and build stronger families:

Now, Therefore, I, Kristi Noem, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 2022, 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 March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.

Kristi Noem, Governor

Attest:

Steven J. Barnett, Secretary of State