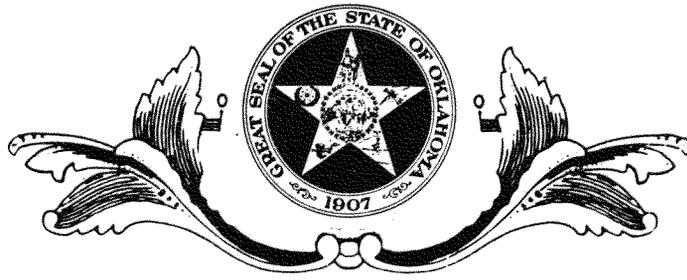


STATE OF OKLAHOMA



FILED

FEB 25 2014

OKLAHOMA SECRETARY OF STATE

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

Whereas, Oklahoma's future prosperity depends on nurturing the healthy development of almost one million children currently living, growing and learning within our many diverse communities; and

Whereas, research shows that safe, nurturing relationships and stimulating, stable environments improve brain development and child wellbeing, while neglectful or abusive experiences and unstable or stressful environments increase the odds of poor childhood outcomes; and

Whereas, the abuse and neglect of children can cause severe, costly and lifelong problems affecting all of society, including physical and mental health problems, school failure and criminal behavior; and

Whereas, research also shows that parents and caregivers who have social networks and know how to seek help in times of trouble are more resilient and better able to provide safe environments and nurturing experiences for their children; and

Whereas, individuals, businesses, schools, and faith-based and community organizations must make children a top priority and take action to support the physical, social, emotional and educational development and competency of all children; and

Whereas, the Oklahoma Child Abuse Prevention Action Committee in partnership with the Oklahoma Interagency Child Abuse Prevention Task Force engage public and private sector agencies, early learning professionals, advocates for children and youth, and residents throughout the state in activities that increase understanding of topics related to child, family and community success; and

Whereas, during the month of April, the Oklahoma State Department of Health in collaboration with its statewide partners will be engaging individuals and communities throughout Oklahoma in a coordinated effort to prevent child abuse and neglect by promoting awareness of healthy child development, positive parenting practices and the types of support families need within their communities; and

Whereas, I encourage all citizens of Oklahoma to recognize that prevention starts with each of us;

Now, therefore, I, Mary Fallin, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2014 as

"Child Abuse Prevention Month"

in the state of Oklahoma.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this 25th day of February, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and fourteen, and of the State of Oklahoma in the one hundred and sixth year.



ATTES.

Chi Zenge
SECRETARY OF STATE

Mary Fallin
GOVERNOR

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