



STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Children always deserve to grow up in a safe and supportive environment. In Texas and across our nation, our children represent the hard work of our past and the bright promise of our future. When we invest in our children, in our future leaders, our communities on the whole will benefit. Sadly, child abuse is far too common in our society. Last year alone, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services confirmed 68,443 cases in which an innocent child was a victim of abuse or neglect. In Texas, we believe in and live out the founding principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and even one case of this unforgivable act stains our pursuit of these ideals.

Child abuse and neglect are serious public health issues that impact child development, family stability, and public health outcomes across Texas. There are four types of child maltreatment: physical abuse, which often results in the bodily harm of a child; neglect, or the failure to provide a child with the basic and necessary needs to sustain a healthy life; sexual abuse, a heinous crime that leaves its survivors with emotional and physical scars; and emotional abuse, which occurs when a child's growth and development are impaired by using emotions to criticize, embarrass, shame, blame, or otherwise manipulate a child. Recognizing the signs of child abuse, in any form, is vital to protect our children, some of the most vulnerable Texans among us.

In order to combat these incredibly serious issues, children's advocacy groups, nonprofit organizations, social workers, and government agencies across the Lone Star State are working tirelessly to help children grow and families thrive through education and awareness. The compassion and commitment of these groups help ensure children have caregivers and homes that support their physical, intellectual, and emotional needs.

Each year, the month of April is dedicated to recognizing that the safety and well-being of children in Texas must remain a priority, and honoring the friends, neighbors, educators, faith leaders, business owners, health care workers, counselors, and many others who help safeguard the well-being of our children. When we stand together, our unity sends a strong message that Texans value life and offers a renewal of courage for the future. Every child deserves the opportunity to reach for their dreams; only together and by the grace of God can we give every child the chance to live a happy and fulfilling life.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to learn more about the signs of child abuse as well as about the many groups, leaders, and communities working hard to protect our children and ensure the future success of Texas for generations to come.


Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim April 2021 to be

## Child Abuse Prevention Month



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2021.

  
Governor of Texas