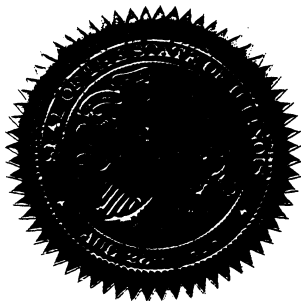


Proclamation

- WHEREAS, no child should have to endure mistreatment or abuse, especially at the hands of an adult. However, the unfortunate truth is that far too often children are abused and neglected by the very people that should protect and care for them; and
- WHEREAS, studies show that child abuse and neglect can ruin children's lives by making them more likely to drop out of school, suffer from drug and alcohol abuse, and ultimately become abusers themselves; and
- WHEREAS, discovering solutions to child abuse and neglect requires the involvement and collaboration of citizens, organizations, and government entities throughout Illinois; and
- WHEREAS, it is important that society learns to recognize the warning signs that a child might be abused or neglected. These include: nervousness around adults; aggression toward children or adults; frequent or unexplained bruises or injuries; low self-esteem; and poor hygiene; and
- WHEREAS, in Illinois, effective child abuse prevention programs have contributed to a decline in reports of child abuse and neglect, from 139,720 reports in Fiscal Year 1995 to 110,237 reports in Fiscal Year 2006; and
- WHEREAS, child abuse prevention programs in Illinois are effective because of partnerships created by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Prevent Child Abuse-Illinois, Parents Share & Care of Illinois, and other government entities, social service agencies, schools, religious organizations, law enforcement agencies, businesses and individual citizens:

THEREFORE, I, Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim April 2007 as **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH** in Illinois, and encourage all citizens to support child abuse prevention programs and report suspected cases of abuse to the Illinois Child Abuse Hotline at 1 (800) 25-ABUSE.

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



Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
this TWENTY-SECOND day of MARCH, in
the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
SEVEN, and of the State of Illinois
the one hundred and EIGHTY-NINTH

Deese White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Rod Blagojevich

GOVERNOR