



WHEREAS, every child deserves to grow up in a nurturing environment, free from abuse, neglect, violence, or endangerment of any kind; and,

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect causes serious harm to child development and has lifelong effects that endanger safety, hinder permanency in relationships, and reduce well-being, creating greater demands on society; and,

WHEREAS, child abuse prevention is a shared responsibility, and finding solutions requires the involvement and collaboration of citizens, organizations, and government entities throughout Illinois and the country; and,

WHEREAS, Illinoisans make more than 220,000 calls to the Illinois Child Abuse Hotline each year, offer temporary safe haven for more than 14,000 children as foster families, and have provided permanent, loving homes for more than 15,000 children through adoption during the last decade; 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, Strengthening Families Illinois, Children's Home + Aid Society of Illinois, Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois, Voices for Illinois Children, and other government entities, social services agencies, schools, religious organizations, law enforcement agencies, businesses and individual citizens;

*THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim April 2017 as **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH** in Illinois, and encourage all citizens to respond to the call of "How will you help?" by supporting child abuse prevention programs and reporting suspected cases of abuse to the Illinois Child Abuse Hotline at (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 _____ FIFTEENTH _____ day of _____ FEBRUARY _____, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
_____ SEVENTEEN _____, and of the State of Illinois,
one hundred and _____ NINETY-NINTH _____.



Dana White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Bruce Rauner

GOVERNOR