



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

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CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH

March 30, 2016

WHEREAS, Alaska's children have a right to be safe and be given the opportunity to thrive, learn, and grow to their full potential, benefitting theirs and the next generation; and

WHEREAS, Alaskans must be educated and informed about protecting children from abuse, providing safe environments, recognizing "grooming" behaviors of abusers, having an age-appropriate personal safety discussions, helping children choose trusted adults to answer questions and provide help, and what to do if abuse is suspected; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and the effect of observing violence in the home creates adverse childhood experiences that can leave psychological, emotional, and physical effects with lifelong consequences for victims and survivors of abuse; and

WHEREAS, families and communities can come together to create a strong, healthy support network by: providing safe and nurturing homes free of violence, abuse, and neglect, extending helping hands to children and families in need, and providing safe child-friendly activities outside the home; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect can be prevented by supporting and strengthening Alaska's families, making meaningful connections and partnerships between schools, professional health services, faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement, tribal governments and organizations; and

WHEREAS, among the many individuals and organizations that support Alaska's children, the State of Alaska Office of Children's Services and the Alaska Children's Trust work every day to support the well-being of Alaska's children and youth and to prevent child abuse and neglect throughout the state.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Walker, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, do hereby proclaim April 2016 as:

Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month

in Alaska, and encourage all Alaskans to create a safe and nurturing environment for children, encourage friends and neighbors to value the safety of children, and give support to individuals and organizations that provide services to at risk and abused children.

Dated: March 30, 2016

Mission Statement

Our purpose is to energize Alaska's spirit through self-determination and resource stewardship to improve the life of every Alaskan. Find out more about our ***Core Values and Vision*** (*pdf*).

SAFER COMMUNITIES
RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT
ECONOMIC SECURITY

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