



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, every child in the world is precious and deserves the chance to grow up in a safe and loving environment; ensuring the safety and security of our children is a responsibility shared by New Yorkers – from parents, to teachers, to neighbors – and all others who can help protect children by identifying signs of violence; and

**Whereas**, strengthening family bonds is one of the most effective deterrents to child abuse, and there are a number of evidence-based home visitation models and programs that serve children and families in NYS; one such model, the Healthy Families New York visitation program (HFNY), focuses on the safety of children and helps mothers who are at high risk for child abuse or neglect, especially teens or those having a history of substance abuse; established by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, HFNY operates in 39 high-risk communities supporting families and providing guidance and support for at-risk, expectant, and new parents through regular visits from trained home visitors; and

**Whereas**, a leading cause of abuse-related death among children is head trauma, including a fully preventable form of abusive behavior known as Shaken Baby Syndrome; each year in New York, approximately 20 out of 100,000 infants sustain abusive head injuries as a result of shaking by a caregiver unable to stop the infant from crying; the New York State Shaken Baby Prevention Program currently reaches maternity and birthing hospitals to educate all parents of newborns regarding the dangers of shaking and how to cope with a crying baby; and

**Whereas**, New York State continues to develop initiatives and programs that seek to reduce and ultimately end child abuse and neglect including free, on-line training for mandated reporters; all New Yorkers are urged to increase their efforts to prevent child abuse and to call the Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment at 1-800-342-3720 to report suspected abuse or neglect; and

**Whereas**, April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to focus on fostering education and awareness of one of the most heinous forms of behavior – and categories of criminal conduct – committed against our vulnerable young;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 2012 as

## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

in the Empire State.



**G i v e n** under my hand and the privy seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this fourth day of April in the year two thousand twelve.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor