



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, all children of New York State have the right to being raised in a safe and secure environment that prepares them for a future of opportunity and promise; tragically, child abuse and neglect threaten the lives and health of thousands of our state's children who are subjected to verbal, sexual, emotional, and physical abuse, exploitation, and neglect; and

Whereas, it is vital for communities to create partnerships among families, social service agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement, and businesses that provide supportive resources and reinforce protective measures to ensure the health and well-being of children and families to reduce incidences of child abuse; and

Whereas, the Empire State has demonstrated positive leadership in preventing child abuse through the *New York State Children and Family Trust Fund* and *Healthy Families New York* – two programs that strengthen families and equip parents with skills to reduce the stress that often leads to child abuse; and

Whereas, a majority of the *New York State Children and Family Trust Fund's* resources is allocated to counteracting child abuse with programs to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome, early education programs in hospitals, birthing centers, pediatricians' offices, and local departments of social services that promote safe sleeping environments, and Family Resource Centers imbedded in communities to provide a key prevention model; and

Whereas, *Healthy Families New York* is an evidence-based home visiting program that focuses on the safety of children by supporting families in high-risk communities; during its 20 years of operation, HFNY has completed more than 1.1 million home visits, assessed more than 54,000 parents and children, and enrolled nearly 35,000 families that have benefitted from improved birth outcomes, child abuse and neglect prevention, increased school performance, positive parenting, and financial guidance; and

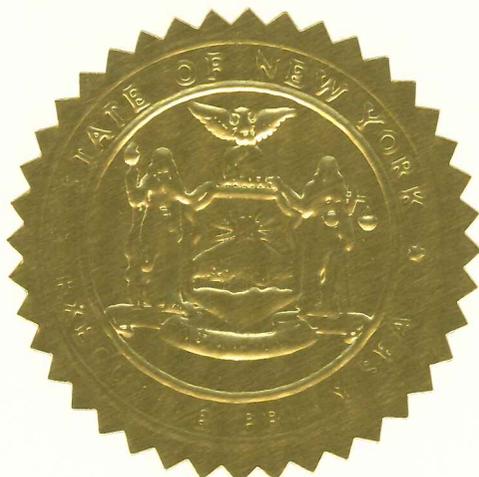
Whereas, all New Yorkers share the responsibility to prevent child abuse by reporting suspected child abuse or maltreatment to the Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment, the state's child abuse hotline that is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to mandated reporters – persons required by law to report suspected cases of child abuse and maltreatment – as well as non-mandated reporters, including the public; mandated reporters can also benefit from accessibility to online training in child abuse neglect/maltreatment identification; and

Whereas, during National Child Abuse Prevention Month, observed each April, all New Yorkers are encouraged to direct their attention to this critical issue and to support programs that promote the safety and security of children; we also take the opportunity to acknowledge the many dedicated caseworkers throughout our state who devote countless hours to ensuring the welfare and well-being of our children;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 2015 as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-fifth
day of March in the year two thousand fifteen.

Governor

Washon J. Mahon
Secretary to the Governor