

2021 -- S 0785

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING APRIL OF 2021, AS "CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND URGING ALL RHODE ISLANDERS TO SUPPORT EFFORTS THAT PROMOTE CHILDREN'S PSYCHOLOGICAL, PHYSICAL, AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Introduced By: Senator Cynthia Armour Coyne

Date Introduced: April 06, 2021

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Our children are our most vulnerable citizens and ensuring their safety is
2 imperative to the health and future of Rhode Island; and

3 WHEREAS, Child abuse and neglect is a troubling problem impacting every segment of
4 our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

5 WHEREAS, Child abuse includes physical, sexual, and emotional abuse as well as
6 neglect; and

7 WHEREAS, Child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical
8 effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse; and

9 WHEREAS, RI KIDS COUNT reports that in 2019, there were 2,249 indicted
10 investigations of child abuse and neglect in Rhode Island; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2020, the Crime Victims Compensation Program approved 181 claims
12 for minor victims, and an additional 44 claims for minors who witnessed acts of domestic
13 violence; and

14 WHEREAS, Every child deserves to be loved. Every child deserves to be safe and
15 supported. Every child deserves the opportunity to excel and thrive; and

16 WHEREAS, Prevention remains the best defense for our children and families; and

17 WHEREAS, Communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities
18 that create strong and thriving children and families; and

1 WHEREAS, Communities must work to increase awareness about child abuse and
2 promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and
3 nurturing environment; and

4 WHEREAS, April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month that aims to "recognize the
5 importance of communities working together to help families thrive and prevent child
6 maltreatment"; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby commemorates April
8 of 2021 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" and urges all Rhode Islanders to support efforts that
9 promote children's psychological, physical, and emotional development; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
11 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Daniel J. McKee, Governor of
12 the State of Rhode Island, the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and
13 Families, and the Rhode Island Chapter of Bikers Against Child Abuse.

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