

**BY:** M. of A. Lunsford

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2021, as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** There is no test of society more important than that of how it treats its children, its most precious resource; and

**WHEREAS,** The children of today are the citizens and leaders of tomorrow; their health, well-being, and development are of paramount importance to the people of the State of New York and, as such, it is the sense of this Legislative Body that every child merits the encouragement, protection, and support of all; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2021, as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Child Abuse Prevention Month; and

**WHEREAS,** Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families; and

**WHEREAS,** During the month of April and throughout the year, communities are encouraged to share child abuse and neglect prevention awareness strategies and activities and promote prevention across the country; and

**WHEREAS,** Over 65,000 children in New York State are abused or neglected each year, enough to fill Madison Square Garden three times; this abuse is preventable if we address its root causes; and

**WHEREAS,** These root causes are directly related to families' internal and external strength and include: inability to access adequate employment and housing, affordable child care, family planning, and accurate information about parenting; substance misuse; and other community-level supports; and

**WHEREAS,** Children's exposure to the unnecessary risk of sexual, physical, and emotional abuse and neglect can be addressed at a state, community, and neighborhood level; and

**WHEREAS,** We must also focus on strengthening the Five Protective Factors: parental resilience; social connections; concrete support in time of need; knowledge of parenting and child development; and social and emotional competencies of children; and

**WHEREAS,** Furthermore, we can make a difference in the lives of children if we invest early and provide communities the support and

information they need; and

**WHEREAS,** By calling attention to the serious and significant problem of child abuse, the observation of Child Abuse Prevention Month exemplifies a worthy commitment to the children of New York State, encourages improvement in the quality and availability of pertinent programs, laws and services, and provides an opportunity to increase awareness about all aspects of this important matter; and

**WHEREAS,** It is imperative that there be greater awareness of this serious issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State and National levels; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2021, as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the State of New York; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.