

By Senator Mitchell

4-2084-99

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Senate Resolution No. \_\_\_\_

A resolution recognizing April 1999 as Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month.

WHEREAS, 79,641 children in this state were identified as having been abused or neglected during Fiscal Year 1997-1998, and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect causes significant trauma to the abused child and society, inflicting upon children serious illness and injury resulting in physical, intellectual, and emotional impairment or death, and

WHEREAS, abused or neglected children are at much greater risk of becoming abusive or neglectful parents, and

WHEREAS, prevention services can reduce the costs society must bear in dealing with the results of child abuse and neglect and can help children and families avoid the overburdened and expensive social welfare and criminal justice systems, and

WHEREAS, 1999 marks the 16th anniversary of child abuse and neglect prevention services in this state, and

WHEREAS, children deserve the opportunity to grow and thrive in healthful environments, free from threats of violence and harm, and

WHEREAS, during the month of April, public and private-sector agencies, child-care professionals, child advocates, and residents will be increasing the public's awareness of child abuse and neglect prevention, NOW,

THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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That the Florida Senate recognizes April 1999 as Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month in this state.