

By Representative Ritter

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House Resolution

A resolution designating the month of April  
1999 as Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention  
Month.

WHEREAS, 79,641 children in the State of Florida were  
identified as being abused or neglected during fiscal year  
1997-1998, and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect result in significant  
trauma to the child, family, and society, as they cause  
children to suffer serious illness and injury, resulting in  
impairment of physical, intellectual, and emotional  
functioning and well-being, or even death, and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the children of Florida deserve the  
opportunity to grow and thrive in healthy 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,

1 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
2 Florida:

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4           That the House of Representatives of the State of  
5 Florida designates April 1999 as Child Abuse and Neglect  
6 Prevention Month in Florida and urges all residents to lend  
7 their support in efforts to prevent the abuse and neglect of  
8 our children during this month and throughout the year.

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