

By Representative Rich

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House Resolution

A resolution recognizing April 2001 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

WHEREAS, 85,644 children in Florida were identified as having been abused or neglected in reports closed during fiscal year 1999-2000, and

WHEREAS, in 1998, 82 children died as the result of a verified finding of abuse or neglect and an additional 39 deaths showed some indication of abuse or neglect, and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect causes significant trauma to the abused child, and to 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 and early intervention 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, 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 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 House of Representatives of the State of Florida:

1 That April 2001 is hereby recognized as Child Abuse
2 Prevention Month.
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