

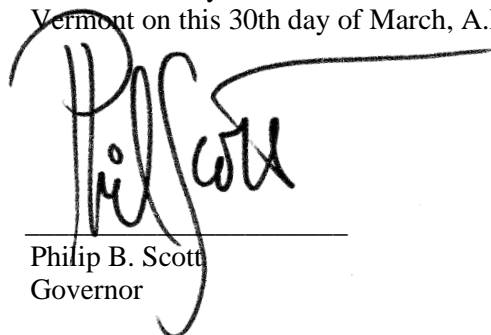
**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

- WHEREAS,** children, Vermont’s most precious resource, must be guaranteed their health, well-being and protection; and
- WHEREAS,** of the substantiated child abuse victims in Vermont in 2022, 177 were related to sexual abuse and 87 to physical abuse; and
- WHEREAS,** infants and toddlers have died as a result of abusive head trauma and as stated in Act One of 2009: “Prevention is the most important and most often overlooked tool available to the state to fight violence against children.” While there is a coordinated statewide approach to stop abuse before it happens, it must provide trauma-informed treatment for victims and offenders; and
- WHEREAS,** firm action is needed by Vermont’s judicial system, the Vermont Department for Children and Families, and Vermont’s Child Advocacy Centers to protect children who have been abused using proven trauma-informed, effective prevention and early intervention programs and initiatives, and prevent abuse from occurring in the first place such as: Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training, Shaken Baby Syndrome/Safe Sleep Promotion, Circle of Parents®, home visitation, Early Essential Education, SAFE-T, Care for Kids, Youth Services, We Care Elementary, KidSafe Collaborative, Strengthening Families Framework, quality child care, Strengthening Families Programs and the Nurturing Parenting Programs®, which significantly contribute to the reduction of child abuse in Vermont; and
- WHEREAS,** all forms of child abuse: sexual, physical, emotional, and neglect can lead to physical and behavioral health problems including heart disease, cancer, high blood pressure, obesity, substance abuse, delinquency and incarceration which inevitably affects our families, schools, communities and health care systems; and
- WHEREAS,** parents, foster and kinship caregivers, early childhood educators, afterschool staff, social workers, health and mental health professionals, teachers, law enforcement officers, victim advocates, home visitors, parent educators, domestic violence and rape crisis workers, hotline workers, mentors, guardian ad litem and other volunteers demonstrate a daily commitment to children and families who fall prey to violence.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim April 2023 as

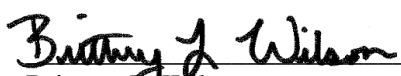
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 30th day of March, A.D. 2023.


Philip B. Scott
Governor




Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs