

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** children, one of Vermont’s most precious resources, must be guaranteed their health, well-being and protection; and
- WHEREAS,** 36 percent of all substantiated child abuse incidents involved sexual abuse and 18 percent physical abuse; and
- WHEREAS,** infants and toddlers have died as a result of abusive head trauma and has stated in Act One of 2009: “prevention is the most important and most often the most 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 be properly funded and provide safety and treatment for victims as well as offenders; and
- WHEREAS,** firm action by Vermont’s judicial system and the Vermont Department for Children and Families and Vermont’s Child Advocacy Centers to protect children who have been abused, coupled with prevention and early intervention programs and initiatives, such as Circle of Parents, home visitation, Early Essential Education, Safe-T, Care for Kids, KidSafe Collaborative, Commit to Kids, quality child care and the Nurturing Parenting Programs, 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 and incarceration, which inevitably affects our families, schools and communities; and
- WHEREAS,** parents, social workers, health and mental health professionals, educators, 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, do hereby proclaim April 2017 as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 4th day of April, A.D. 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott", written over a horizontal line.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittney L. Wilson", written over a horizontal line.

Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs