

**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 all the 2016 substantiated child abuse incidents in Vermont, 36 percent were related to sexual abuse and 14 percent to physical abuse; 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, communities and health care systems; and
- WHEREAS,** parents, foster parents, child care professionals, 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; and
- WHEREAS,** to protect children who have been abused, firm action is needed by Vermont's judicial system, the Vermont Department for Children and Families and Vermont's Child Advocacy Centers, supplemented by continued engagement of early intervention programs and initiatives, such as: Circle of Parents®, home visitation, Early Essential Education, SAFE-T, Care for Kids, Youth Services, We Care Elementary, KidSafe Collaborative, Commit to Kids, Strengthening Families Framework, quality child care and the Nurturing Parenting Programs®.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, do hereby proclaim April 2018 as

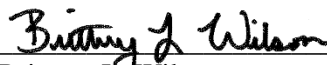
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 29rd day of March, A.D. 2018



Philip B. Scott
Governor


Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs