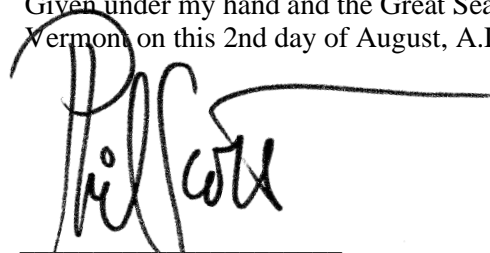


**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

- WHEREAS,** all children need the love, care, and financial support of a family to grow into healthy, productive adults and reach their full potential; and
- WHEREAS,** financial and emotional support of parents, extended families, caregivers, and the community are crucial components of the child’s health and economic well-being; and
- WHEREAS,** child support payments contribute to improved parent-child relationships, improved educational attainment for children, and reduced reliance on public assistance programs, and can become a first step to financial security for domestic violence survivors; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont’s Office of Child Support (OCS) offers free services to parents, grandparents, or other custodians and strives to ensure the child support process is fair, helpful, and unbiased to all parties and is in the best interests of children under Vermont law; and
- WHEREAS,** OCS collaborates with state and federal agencies, county courts, employment programs, family violence shelters, and other social service agencies to engage and empower parents to find ways to provide reliable support for their children; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont employers are an invaluable resource in OCS’ efforts to secure financial and medical resources for children by working cooperatively with OCS to withhold and remit child support payments in a timely manner and enroll children in health plans; and
- WHEREAS,** child support professionals are vital assets to the state, and they are dedicated to providing outstanding services to 12,000 families in Vermont, other states, and around the world; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2022, child support programs nationwide collected \$30.5 billion and served 1 in 5 children in the United States and in Vermont, OCS collected more than \$34 million for families across the state and assisted 250 families in establishing paternity for their children; and
- WHEREAS,** August is celebrated as Child Support Awareness Month to applaud the parents and custodians who support children and recognize that raising awareness about child support services is an effective investment in Vermont’s future as the program increases self-sufficiency, reduces child poverty, and has a positive effect on children and families.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim August 2023 as


**CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH
in Vermont.**

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of
Vermont on this 2nd day of August, A.D. 2023.



Philip B. Scott
Governor




Brittney J. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs