

**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 2023, approximately 207 were related to sexual abuse and as approximately 105 physical abuses 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”; and

WHEREAS, infants and toddlers have lost their lives as a result of abusive head trauma and unsafe sleep practices and while there is a coordinated statewide approach to stop abuse before it happens, it must always 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: The Healthy Relationships Project, Shaken Baby Syndrome/Safe Sleep Promotion, Circle of Parents®, home visitation, Early Essential Education, The KidSafe Collaborative, Strengthening Families, high quality child care, and the Nurturing Parenting Programs®, InsideOut Dad, which significantly contribute to the reduction of child abuse in Vermont; and

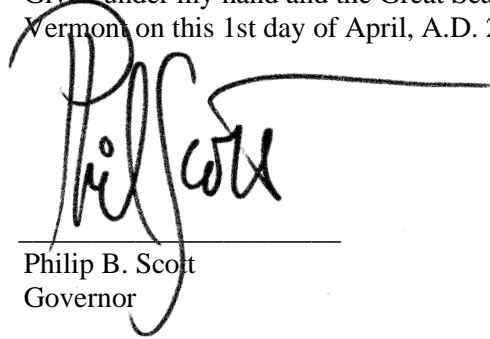
WHEREAS, all forms of child abuse are known Adverse Childhood Experiences and include: sexual, physical, emotional, and neglect can lead to physical and behavioral health problems including heart disease, cancer, high blood pressure, obesity, substance abuse, delinquency and incarceration which inevitably affects our families schools, communities, and health care systems; and

WHEREAS, parents, foster and kinship caregivers, early childhood educators, afterschool staff, social workers, mental health professionals, teachers, law enforcement, victim advocates, home visitors, parent educators, domestic violence and sexual assault crisis workers, hotline workers, mentors, guardians ad litem, and other volunteers demonstrate a daily commitment to children and families who fall prey to violence.

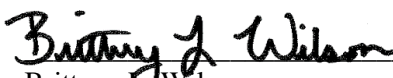
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim April 2024 as

**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
in Vermont.**

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 1st day of April, A.D. 2024.


Philip B. Scott
Governor




Brittney J. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs