

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** all children deserve the love, care, and financial support of a family to grow into healthy, productive adults and reach their full potential; and
- WHEREAS,** the financial and emotional support of parents, extended families, caregivers, and the community are essential for a child's health and economic well-being; and
- WHEREAS,** child support payments enhance parent-child relationships, boost children's educational success, reduce reliance on public assistance programs, and provide a crucial step toward financial security for domestic violence survivors; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont's Department for Children and Families, Office of Child Support (OCS) offers free services to parents, grandparents, and other custodians, ensuring a fair, helpful, and unbiased child support process that prioritizes 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 organizations to empower parents to provide consistent support for their children; and
- WHEREAS,** effective June 5, 2023, the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) has been renamed the Office of Child Support Services (OCSS). This name change reflects the program's commitment to serve the whole family and provide services that promote family self-sufficiency, so children receive reliable support from both parents; and
- WHEREAS,** OCS has initiated a family input study to gain valuable insights and feedback, crucial for improving the services provided and ensuring they meet the needs of families effectively; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont employers are invaluable partners in OCS' efforts to secure financial and medical resources for children by working cooperatively to withhold and remit child support payments promptly and enroll children in health plans; and
- WHEREAS,** child support professionals are dedicated to providing exceptional services to over 11,410 families in Vermont, other states, and around the world in Federal fiscal year 2023; and
- WHEREAS,** in Federal fiscal year 2023, child support programs nationwide collected \$29.6 billion and served 1 in 5 children in the United

States. In Vermont, OCS collected over \$42.5 million for families across the state and assisted 454 families in establishing paternity for their children; and

WHEREAS,

August is celebrated as Child Support Awareness Month to honor the parents and custodians who support their children and to raise awareness about child support services, recognizing it as an effective investment in Vermont's future by increasing self-sufficiency, reducing child poverty, and positively impacting children's lives.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim August 2024, as

CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH
in Vermont.



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

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

Philip B. Scott
Governor

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

Brittney D. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs