



2017 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 31

March 29, 2017 - Introduced by Senators TESTIN, JOHNSON, DARLING, HANSEN, COWLES, L. TAYLOR, CARPENTER, WIRCH, MILLER, BEWLEY, RINGHAND, C. LARSON and PETROWSKI, cosponsored by Representatives BILLINGS, BALLWEG, KITCHENS, MILROY, JACQUE, WACHS, MASON, SINICKI, GOYKE, MURSAU, KRUG, KOLSTE, C. TAYLOR, ROHRKASTE, ANDERSON, KESSLER, SPREITZER, TAUCHEN, PETRYK, HEBL, CONSIDINE, GENRICH, VRUWINK, TRANEL, BERCEAU, CROWLEY, HINTZ, VANDERMEER, DOYLE, SUBECK, HORLACHER, FIELDS, BOWEN, POPE and E. BROOKS. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming April as Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month in
2 Wisconsin.

3 Whereas, children compose a quarter of Wisconsin's population and are the
4 foundation of its future; and

5 Whereas, safe, stable, and nurturing relationships are essential to prevent
6 child maltreatment and to assure that children reach their full potential; and

7 Whereas, parents and other caregivers, when supported, can safeguard the
8 long-term growth and well-being of children, enabling them to contribute
9 meaningfully to their communities in adulthood; and

10 Whereas, the toxic stress produced by child abuse and neglect is a significant
11 public health problem that imposes lasting and damaging effects on children's
12 psychological, physical, and social health into adulthood, affecting community
13 growth and development; and

14 Whereas, in 2015, Wisconsin Child Protective Services maltreatment reports
15 totaled 42,455 with 5,278 substantiated cases; and

1 Whereas, child abuse is a preventable problem with explicit and effective
2 prevention factors as identified by the Center for the Study of Social Policy, including
3 parental resilience, knowledge of parenting and child development, social and
4 emotional competence of children, concrete supports in times of need, and social
5 connections; and

6 Whereas, prevention is more effective than retroactive treatment at protecting
7 children and strengthening families; and

8 Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
9 prevention of child abuse and neglect could save the country \$124 billion each year;
10 and

11 Whereas, community advocacy and institutional and organizational
12 partnerships are the most effective instruments by which to increase awareness and
13 the ability to identify and report child maltreatment; and

14 Whereas, according to the Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention
15 Board, communities can and should take concrete actions, like providing
16 preventative resources, developing training and public awareness, and promoting
17 policies that strengthen families; and

18 Whereas, every individual has a role to play in the prevention of child abuse and
19 neglect; now, therefore, be it

20 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the Wisconsin
21 Legislature proclaims April as “Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month” in
22 Wisconsin and calls upon all citizens, community agencies, religious and civic
23 organizations, medical facilities, and businesses to increase their participation in

1 efforts to support families and prevent child maltreatment, thereby strengthening
2 the communities in which we live.

3 (END)