



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, all children of New York State, our nation, and around the world need love and care to support their healthy growth and development, and they deserve to be raised in an environment that keeps them safe from potential forms of harm including verbal, sexual, emotional and physical abuse, exploitation, malnourishment, and neglect of other basic needs; and

Whereas, research shows that strengthening and supporting families by building protective factors – nurturing and attachment, knowledge of parenting and child development, social connections, parental resilience, social and emotional competence of children, and concrete supports in times of need – promotes the optimal development of children and reduces child maltreatment; and

Whereas, New York State continues to demonstrate strong leadership in helping families through the expansion of the evidence-based Healthy Families New York program, which results in better birth outcomes, increased school success and additional tools to improve parent-child interactions, and strives to reduce child abuse and maltreatment by providing intensive home visitation services; Family Opportunity Centers to increase protective factors; and the OCFS HEARS Family Line to connect families to resources and referrals that promote well-being; and

Whereas, every New Yorker shares responsibility in preventing the maltreatment of a child by supporting families and through diligent reporting of suspected child abuse or maltreatment to the Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment, the state's child abuse hotline, which is available 24 hours a day/seven days a week by calling 1-800-342-3720; and

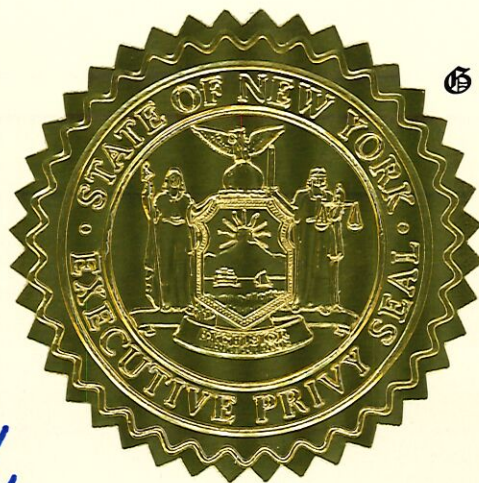
Whereas, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and counties statewide join to recognize April as "Child Abuse Prevention Awareness and Family Strengthening and Support Month," and all New Yorkers are encouraged to support programs that build families' protective factors and promote the safety and security of children: and

Whereas, during the month of April, we recommit ourselves to the safety of all New York State's children and take the opportunity to acknowledge the many dedicated caseworkers across our state who devote countless hours to ensuring the welfare and well-being of our precious young; since 2008, the pinwheel has been a national symbol for child abuse and neglect prevention, and we embrace it as a simple reminder that we want great childhoods for all children;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AWARENESS and FAMILY STRENGTHENING AND SUPPORT MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this thirtieth day of
of March in the year two thousand twenty-three.

Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh

Governor