**SAMPLE LANGUAGE FOR A**

 **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH PROCLAMATION**

**pick the clauses that fit best in your community – get creative and add your own!**

Whereas: NAME OF YOUR AGENCY HERE reminds us that **Child Abuse CAN be prevented and everyone has a role to play**; and

Whereas: every child deserves to be safe, nurtured and supported in caring relationships; and every family deserves to be safe, nurtured and supported in their community; and

Whereas: The estimated cost to treat the effects of child maltreatment in the United States exceeds $1 billion annually; and

Whereas: the cost to our community just from the cases substantiated last year will be $XXX,XXX \*\*

Whereas: everyone has a role to play in preventing child abuse and all citizens must become aware of the importance of supporting parents to raise their children in a safe, nurturing environment; and

Whereas: too many of our community's children are exposed to extreme and sustained stress like child abuse and neglect, which can be devastating to a child’s development; and

Whereas: we lay the foundation for children’s later growth and development when the entire community takes responsibility for creating healthy environments in which to raise our children; and

Whereas: the children in our community who have fallen victim to maltreatment deserve high quality, evidence-based services delivered by committed and well supported professionals;

Whereas: effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of community partnerships created among families, social service agencies, schools, businesses, law enforcement agencies, faith-based organizations and other child serving agencies; and

**Whereas, it is easier to build healthy and strong children than repair broken adults;**

Now therefore I, NAME, TITLE, JURISDICTION

Declare April as CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH in JURISDICTION and urge all citizens, businesses and social institutions to dedicate ourselves to the task of supporting parents in their critical job of raising safe, healthy children and ensuring the health and safety of all children in JURISDICTION.

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\*\* To calculate the cost of child abuse to your community, contact your local CPS office for the number of substantiated cases last year, and multiply by $830,928, the lifetime cost of each non-fatal case of child abuse as reported here: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0145213418303867?via%3Dihub>

Find the numbers for your state here: https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/4700a8\_59e7739c311d4922ae47a0d2925c98f7.pdf