



Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

April 8, 2025

WHEREAS, Prevention is possible. With the right policies and investments, families and children can thrive and avoid contact with child welfare and other costly systems; and

WHEREAS, the early experiences of children impact them throughout life – both positively and negatively; and

WHEREAS, every family and child have inherent strengths, and we all have a collective responsibility to prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences, foster the potential of every child, and promote Positive Childhood Experiences; and

WHEREAS, Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs)—such as loving caregivers and safe, stable, and nurturing relationships—play a vital role in helping children thrive by mitigating trauma and the negative impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs); and

WHEREAS, families who receive the support they need before a crisis occurs are better equipped to provide safe, healthy, and nurturing environments, leading to safer, healthier children who are more hopeful about their futures; and

WHEREAS, childhood trauma, including abuse and neglect, can have long-term psychological, emotional, social, and physical effects throughout an individual's lifetime and impact future generations; and

WHEREAS, primary prevention of child abuse and neglect can reduce the lifetime economic burden associated with child maltreatment; and

WHEREAS, strengthening families through proven protective factors, such as concrete economic, social, and community-based supports, reduces the likelihood of abuse and neglect and ensures children have the foundation for lifelong well-being; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, early childhood professionals, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, government agencies, businesses first responders, and families; and

WHEREAS, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that create strong and thriving children and families; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment; and



WHEREAS, investments in prevention initiatives—such as home visiting programs, family strengthening policies, economic supports, and community-based child abuse prevention efforts— are essential to building safer, healthier communities for children and families; and

WHEREAS, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, The Gilpin County Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 2025 as **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH** in Gilpin County and urge all Coloradans to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.

Together, we can create a state where every child can grow up happy, healthy, and safe with hope for their future.

Signed by Commissioners Aiken, Berumen, and Hollingsworth on April 8, 2025.