**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE THE MONTH OF APRIL 2018 AS “CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH” IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO END CHILD ABUSE BY EMPOWERING CHILDREN, INFORMING ADULTS, AND EDUCATING COMMUNITIES.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives deem it absolutely appropriate to pause in their deliberations to recognize April 2018 as “Child Abuse Prevention Month” in the State of South Carolina and to encourage citizens to educate themselves and their community in an effort to forever end the abuse of children; and

Whereas, each and every child is entitled to grow up in a safe, loving, and stable family, protected from sexual, emotional, and physical abuse, as well as exploitation and neglect; and

Whereas, child abuse continues to be one of our nation’s and state’s most serious public health problems, with the combined direct and indirect costs of child maltreatment in the millions; and

Whereas, all citizens play a vital role in preventing child abuse and neglect by promoting healthy, nurturing relationships between children and adults; and

Whereas, preventing child abuse and neglect is an issue that depends on involvement among people throughout the community; and

Whereas, programs that are effective in the prevention of child abuse succeed because of partnerships formed among families, social service agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, child welfare advocacy organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives add their voices to support these worthy partnerships and programs. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, declares the month of April 2018 as “Child Abuse Prevention Month” in the State of South Carolina and supports efforts to end child abuse by empowering children, informing adults, and educating communities.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Behavioral Health Services.

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