



HR0767

LRB104 21307 ECR 36121 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, April is annually recognized as National Child Abuse Prevention Month to highlight the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect, as the prevention services developed by this cooperation can help parents, caregivers, and communities protect children and strengthen families; and

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WHEREAS, According to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, over 125,000 children are affected by child abuse in the State annually; and

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WHEREAS, The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act was passed in 1974; while it has been amended many times over the years, the purpose of the original legislation is still intact; nevertheless, the United States Congress made a further commitment to implementing solutions to child abuse in the early 1980s; and

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WHEREAS, Recognizing the alarming rate at which children continued to be abused and neglected and the need for new programs to prevent child abuse as well as assist parents and families affected by mistreatment, the United States Senate and House of Representatives resolved that the first National Child Abuse Prevention Week should be designated during the

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1 week of June 6 through June 12, 1982; and

2 WHEREAS, The first National Child Abuse Prevention Month
3 was then declared in April 1983, and since then, child abuse
4 awareness activities have been promoted across the country
5 during the month of April each year, such as the Blue Ribbon
6 Campaign initiative; and

7 WHEREAS, The Blue Ribbon Campaign had its early beginnings
8 as a Virginia grandmother's tribute to her grandson who died
9 as a result of abuse; she tied a blue ribbon to the antenna of
10 her car as a way to honor his memory and to warn her community
11 of the tragedy of child abuse; and

12 WHEREAS, The Blue Ribbon Campaign has since expanded all
13 over the country, with many wearing blue ribbons each April in
14 memory of victims of child abuse, fundraisers taking place to
15 support prevention activities, and candlelight vigils being
16 held as memorials; and

17 WHEREAS, In more recent years, the focus of Blue Ribbon
18 Campaign has shifted towards a more positive message of
19 celebrating individuals, communities, and organizations who
20 have contributed to the prevention of child abuse; and

21 WHEREAS, National Child Abuse Month has been recognized by

1 the nonprofit Prevent Child Abuse America every April since
2 its designation in 1983; for 2026, the nonprofit's theme is
3 "Every day, we help positive childhood experience take root"
4 in acknowledgment that we need to work together to cultivate
5 relationships, connections, and environments to ensure every
6 child thrives; and

7 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is strongly committed to
8 preventing child abuse and ensuring that individuals,
9 organizations, and communities are actively working to
10 eliminate and prevent child abuse statewide; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
12 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
13 we recognize April 2026 as National Child Abuse Prevention
14 Month.