

GENESEE COUNTY RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL AS CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, April is nationally recognized as **Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month**, dedicated to raising awareness about child abuse and neglect and emphasizing the need for community involvement in protecting children; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan and Genesee County acknowledge that child abuse and neglect are serious public health and safety concerns requiring a united community effort to prevent; and

WHEREAS, abused or neglected children have a higher risk in adulthood for developing health problems, including alcoholism, depression, drug abuse, eating disorders, obesity, suicide, and certain chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, a National Institute of Justice study indicated that abused or neglected children are 11 times more likely to be arrested for criminal behavior as juveniles and 2.7 times more likely to be arrested for violent and criminal behavior as adults; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 1/3 of abused or neglected children grow up to abuse or neglect their own children;

WHEREAS, preventing child abuse and neglect necessitates a coordinated effort from all sectors of our community, including public officials, family members, educators, businesses, faith-based organizations, and social service agencies; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness and promoting education on positive parenting, trauma-informed care, and early intervention programs are essential to breaking the cycle of abuse and ensuring safe, healthy childhoods for all children in Genesee County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **Genesee County Board of Commissioners** hereby declares **April 2025 as Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month in Genesee County**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **Genesee County Board of Commissioners** supports all local initiatives that raise awareness, educate families, and provide resources to prevent child abuse and neglect; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the **Genesee County Board of Commissioners** encourages all residents to recognize their role in preventing child abuse and neglect and to work together in creating a safer, healthier future for every child in our community.

Adopted: *(Month/Day/2025)*