

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS: Adults should be the protectors, role models, heroes and heroines to children; yet, thousands of Georgia's children are abused and neglected each year, often carrying the burden of their abuse into adulthood; and

WHEREAS: Child abuse and neglect ruin children's lives, destroy families and contribute to serious societal problems, including juvenile delinquency and teen pregnancy. Studies have shown that abused and neglected children are more likely to suffer from drug and alcohol abuse, drop out of school, be arrested for serious crimes and ultimately become abusers themselves; and

WHEREAS: It is the responsibility of every citizen to prevent child abuse and neglect, and community action and involvement are essential to breaking the cycle of abuse. Prevent Child Abuse Georgia, its community-based chartered councils and the Department of Human Resources and its county Departments of Family and Children Services are hosting public awareness events throughout our state during the month of April; and

WHEREAS: Georgia is committed to building stronger families, and dedicated organizations and individuals work daily to stop child abuse, educate communities and support healthy families; and

WHEREAS: All Georgia citizens should be aware of the impact of child abuse and neglect, work for its prevention within the community and be involved in supporting parents to raise their children in safe, nurturing environments; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2003 as CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH in Georgia and urge all citizens to protect Georgia's children and help prevent child abuse and neglect thereby strengthening our communities.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 15th day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand three.

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