



## PROCLAMATION

*Of the Board of Supervisors of the County of El  
Dorado in Recognition of  
Child Abuse Prevention Month*

**WHEREAS**, 2,365 reports of abuse and/or neglect were made to El Dorado County Child Protective Services in 2021, of which 226 were investigated and found to be substantiated; and

**WHEREAS**, all children deserve great childhoods and should be raised in healthy nurturing homes, free from abuse and neglect. However, abuse and neglect continue to be a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

**WHEREAS** over 60% of Californians report experiencing at least one ACE before the age of 18. Approximately 1 in 4 Californians reported having 3 or more ACE's. Reducing the number of ACEs can drastically lower the risks of long-term health and wellness issues, allowing children to grow into healthy and productive adults; and

**WHEREAS**, the two major risk factors leading to child abuse and neglect, family isolation and stress, have been experienced by our families in ways never imagined due to the isolation of COVID-19, the unprecedented evacuations of children and families during the Caldor Fire, the unprecedented extended power outages in our community, and the rapid increase of inflation; and

**WHEREAS**, a 2019 Study of the Economics of Child abuse found that cumulative financial impact to the El Dorado community of 283 victims of child abuse in 2018 was \$79.6 million dollars. Studies show that each death due to child maltreatment has a lifetime cost of \$16.6 million and the lifetime cost for each victim of child maltreatment who lived is \$830,928.66; and

**WHEREAS** our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of El Dorado County; and

**WHEREAS** child abuse and neglect can put a child's stress system permanently on high alert and prime the brain for future mental health issues. Experiences of physical abuse and neglect early in life can become a cycle and may be passed down through generations. Children who grow up exposed to violence may consider it to be

acceptable. Children who have experienced abuse are nine times more likely to become involved in criminal activities; and

**WHEREAS** protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children. The five protective factors have been shown to strengthen families and reduce the likelihood that abuse and neglect will occur, and can mitigate long-term consequences of experiencing child abuse and neglect; and

**WHEREAS**, preventing child abuse is everyone's responsibility. Even though El Dorado County is made up of many different families, we are all part of one community. Our community 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; Prevention remains the best defense for children and families; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado does hereby proclaim the month of April 2022 as Child Abuse Prevention Month and urge all citizens to come together to build caring connections, supportive environments, and positive experiences for children and families.

*Passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado at a regular meeting of said Board, held the 12th day of April 2022.*

Attest:

Kim Dawson, Clerk of the Board



Lori Parlin, Chair Board of Supervisors