

Declaration

Whereas, though all children deserve to experience and enjoy a carefree and innocent childhood, child abuse is a serious and growing problem affecting more than 13,000 of Utah's children annually;

Whereas, statistics show that threats to Utah's children and families cross over several program lines resulting in further costs for the State;

Whereas, domestic violence-related child abuse continues to be the most prevalent form of child abuse in Utah, and the incidence of sexual abuse follows as the second most common form of abuse;

Whereas, 60 percent of children in the custody of the Division of Child and Family Services are affected by substance abuse by a caregiver;

Whereas, child abuse respects no racial, religious, class or geographic boundaries;

Whereas, all citizens of the State of Utah should become more aware of child abuse and its prevention within their respective communities, and actively encourage and support parents to raise their children in a safe, nurturing environment; and,

Whereas, preventing child abuse also depends upon the efforts of Utah citizens to make a positive, substantial impact on the children of today who will become the leaders of tomorrow;

Now, Therefore, I, Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., Governor of the State of Utah, do hereby declare April 2008 as

Child Abuse Prevention Month

Governor