

PROCLAMATION

OF THE

MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RECOGNIZING APRIL AS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE

PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, in Federal fiscal year 2022, 3.1 million children received either an investigation response or alternative response of suspected child abuse or neglect; and

WHEREAS, in Mendocino County in year 2023, 2,541 suspected child abuse/neglect reports were received with 792 needing investigation resulting in 345 substantiated allegations. Mendocino County Child Welfare and community partners support on average monthly, 313 children, youth and non-minor dependents involved in the Juvenile Dependency Court; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of Mendocino County; and

WHEREAS, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse; and

WHEREAS, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families; and

WHEREAS, communities 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 contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors do hereby proclaim April 2024 as **NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH** in Mendocino County and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.

Dated: April 9, 2024

Maureen Mulheren, Chair