



# VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES

*Child Abuse Prevention Month  
Resolution of Recognition*

**WHEREAS**, every child has the right to safe, healthy, and nurturing environments, with equitable access to resources and opportunities to thrive in their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, during Child Abuse Prevention Month, the State Board of Social Services, recognizes the courage it takes to raise a child and that all parents and families have the right to be treated with dignity, to have economic stability and to receive the support and knowledge that child rearing demands; and

**WHEREAS**, child abuse is considered to be one of our nation's most serious public health problems, with scientific studies documenting the correlation between the abuse and neglect of children and a wide range of medical, emotional, psychological, and behavioral disorders; and

**WHEREAS**, child abuse affects 121,787 families in Virginia, documented through reports to the local departments of social services. During SFY 2020, there were 33,880 completed reports of child abuse accepted by local departments of social services involving 52,554 children; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Department of Social Services and local departments of social services play an integral role in child abuse prevention, keeping children with their families in their communities, and supporting parents and families to successfully thrive in their communities and prevent entry into foster care; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia's child welfare stakeholders, through pass thru funding to communities, deliver critical services and supports to strengthen familial protective factors to prevent child abuse through programs such as: home visiting services, primary prevention programs, parent support programs, and other evidence-based strategies;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021, the State Board of Social Services does hereby recognize April 2021 as Child Abuse Prevention Month; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the State Board of Social Services recognizes the critical role that local family services workers play in supporting families in stress and protecting children at risk of child abuse and does commend and thank them for their service; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the State Board of Social Services does hereby call on all local departments of social services and Community Action Agencies to plan with their partners to recognize April as Child Abuse Prevention Month by promoting and highlighting programs and actions in their own community that support families and safeguard and nurture our children utilizing a variety of activities to include the Virginia child abuse prevention toolkit developed by [Families Forward Virginia](#).

*Lou Brown Ali*

*Lou Brown Ali, Chair  
State Board of Social Services*