

Proclamation: establishing April 2015 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month in New Hampshire

WHEREAS, New Hampshire's leaders and citizens know that child abuse and neglect is a serious problem that damages children and presents a serious financial burden to the state and to the nation;

WHEREAS, New Hampshire's leaders and citizens understand that child abuse and neglect can be prevented most effectively by promoting key protective factors. These factors help assure that every family has what they need to support their children's wellbeing. These protective factors, established through research, are nurturing and attachment; knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development; parental resilience; social connections; concrete supports in times of need; and the social and emotional competence of children.

WHEREAS, 941 children in New Hampshire were victims of child maltreatment in 2013 with 30% of those cases involved children ages birth to 3 years of age. Physical abuse was a factor in 7% of these 941 cases. Abusive Head Trauma, or what was formerly referred to as Shaken Baby Syndrome, is the most lethal form of child abuse and infants are at highest risk for death.

WHEREAS, it has been identified that crying is the most common trigger in these abusive events and we know that primary prevention strategies like *The Period of PURPLE Crying*® are being embraced by hospitals, healthcare providers and home visiting agencies to prevent Abusive Head Trauma and other abuse to infants. By sharing information about crying with all families and promoting protective factors we can ensure that New Hampshire's children grow to their full potential as leaders, helping to secure the future of this great state and nation.

WHEREAS, April is a time to celebrate the important role of prevention in protecting children and strengthening families. This effort, led by the NH Children's Trust and other community organizations across the state improves life for all our citizens.

WHEREAS, now do I, Maggie Hassan, as Governor of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby declare April 2015, as Child Abuse Prevention Month in New Hampshire, and

Do hereby encourage communities, leaders, and agencies, to work together to support children and families and encourage all citizens to join me in reaffirming our commitment to New Hampshire's Children's safety and well-being

Signed, this date....