

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *National Child Abuse Prevention Month is recognized each April as a time to reaffirm our commitment to all children and their right to a safe and secure environment; during this month, advocates work to increase public awareness of the need to ensure the safety and welfare of children and to bring awareness to incidents of child abuse; and*

WHEREAS, *in the most recent report from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Public Welfare, 26,664 reports of suspected child and student abuse were received in 2012, an increase of 2,286 reports from 2011; and*

WHEREAS, *all people have a role to play in preventing child abuse and neglect; citizens can create safe places for children to build their confidence and be aware of the warning signs of abuse and neglect; our children deserve our best, and it is up to our public officials, parents, teachers, neighbors, and friends to fight for our future generations and ensure that they have the bright future of which they are worthy; and*

WHEREAS, *through initiatives such as public awareness, prevention programs, research, community support, and efforts to strengthen families, we can take steps toward reducing child abuse and neglect; the Allegheny County Department of Human Service's Office of Children, Youth, and Families provides these programs and works tirelessly to ensure the well-being of our children; and*

WHEREAS, *Allegheny County believes that every child deserves the opportunity to feel safe, and grow up with the promise and protection of a loving family and community; we will continue to stand up for the rights of children knowing that each one is special and deserves love and respect.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED *that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim April 2014 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in Allegheny County.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, *I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 9th day of April, 2014.*

Rich Fitzgerald

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