

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON**

A Proclamation Declaring April 2024 to be Child Abuse Prevention Month

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, there were over 5,000 reports of child abuse and neglect in Central Oregon last year resulting in over 2,500 founded cases of child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, we all have a responsibility, as individuals, neighbors, community members and citizens of Central Oregon to help create healthy, safe, nurturing experiences for children; and

WHEREAS, safe and healthy childhoods help produce confident and successful adults; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect often occur when people find themselves in stressful situations, without community resources, and don't know how to cope; and

WHEREAS, the majority of child abuse and neglect cases stem from situations and conditions that are preventable with the support of an engaged community; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect can be reduced by making sure that families have the support and access to services they need to raise their children in a healthy environment; and

WHEREAS; child abuse and neglect not only directly harm children, but the trauma can also increase the likelihood of criminal behavior, substance abuse, health problems such as heart disease and obesity, and poor academic outcomes; and

WHEREAS; effective prevention programs succeed because of partnerships among agencies, schools, faith communities, philanthropic and civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim April 2024 to be Child Abuse Prevention Month in Deschutes County and we urge all citizens to work together to make sure every family has the support they need and deserve to raise their children in a healthy environment.

DATED this 3rd Day of April 2024 by the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.

Patti Adair, Chair

Anthony DeBone, Vice-Chair

PHIL CHANG, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Recording Secretary