

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

**A Proclamation declaring April 2026 to be Child Abuse Prevention Month**

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, there were over 5,400 reports of child abuse and neglect in Central Oregon last year, which resulted in more than 2,700 investigations; 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, 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 2026 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 to raise their children in a healthy environment.

**DATED** this 1st Day of April 2026 by the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.

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Phil Chang, Chair

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Anthony DeBone, Vice-Chair

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Patti Adair, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Recording Secretary