

PROCLAMATION: *Child Abuse Prevention Month*

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2025, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services confirmed 27,343 children in state custody due to child abuse or neglect, including 229 in our service area; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect are serious problems affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone in our community; and

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of Texas; and

WHEREAS, child abuse can have a long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that can have lifelong consequences for victims; and

WHEREAS, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the meaningful connections and partnerships created between child welfare, education, health, community and faith-based organizations, businesses, and law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that benefit children and their families; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, prevention remains the best defense for children and families; and


WHEREAS, the impact of abuse and neglect has long-term personal, economic and social costs, therefore hurting Texas' future; and

WHEREAS, Court Appointed Special Advocates – CASA volunteers – are assigned by the court to speak up for a child's best interest and help ensure a child's voice is heard; and

WHEREAS, every child in foster care deserves a CASA volunteer but roughly less than half the children in care do not have a CASA volunteer; and

WHEREAS, 6991 CASA volunteers spoke up for the best interest of 17,431 children, donating 324,820 hours of volunteer service in Texas last year; and

WHEREAS, CASA of South Texas dedicated staff, board and volunteers work to ensure that children in our community have a safe and happy future;

 **NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Mayor Martin Poore, do hereby proclaim *April 2026 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month*, and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.

Signed this 9 day of April 2026,
