

Office of the Walton County Board of Commissioners
Walton County of Georgia

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, According to the Child Maltreatment report prepared by the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there were 618,000 confirmed cases of child abuse and/or neglect in America in 2020, and

WHEREAS, The Georgia Family Connection Partnership reports that there were 173 substantiated cases of child abuse and/or neglect in Walton County, Georgia in 2019, and

WHEREAS, In 2021, A Child's Voice Child Advocacy Center responded to 113 cases of child physical abuse, sexual abuse, and/or a witness to a violent crime in Walton County, Georgia by conducting Forensic Interviews, Forensic Medical Examinations, and family support services, and

WHEREAS, The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests that reported cases of child abuse may underestimate the true occurrence and estimates that 1 in 4 American children experience some form of child maltreatment in their lifetimes, and

WHEREAS, According to Darkness to Light, victims of child abuse are significantly more likely to experience emotional, psychological, health, and behavioral issues, and

WHEREAS, With a strong support system and effective counseling, children are able to heal from physical and sexual abuse, and

WHEREAS, Children's Advocacy Centers, like A Child's Voice, work within the community to spread awareness about child abuse, teach citizens how to recognize the signs and respond to child abuse, and utilize a multidisciplinary approach to coordinating care for families with the help of law enforcement, DFCS, District Attorney's Office, school systems, and mental health counselors, and

WHEREAS, A Child's Voice Child Advocacy Center invites all residents of Walton County to participate in Child Abuse Prevention Month in April 2022 by sharing their time and talents to help create better, brighter futures for children and families;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, David Thompson, Chairman of Walton County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 1-30, 2022 as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

in Walton County and encourage all residents to become aware of the prevalence of child abuse in our community and to learn how to properly recognize, respond to and prevent instances of child physical or sexual abuse by supporting children and families, and the agencies that serve them, in Walton County.

IN TESTIMONY WHERE OF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Walton County, Georgia, this [___ th] day of April 2022.

SEAL

Chairman, Board of Commissioners
Walton County, Georgia