

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 588

WHEREAS, Child abuse and neglect is an epidemic in the United States, killing more than three children every day in America, nearly 85 percent of whom are under the age of six and nearly half of whom are under the age of one; and

WHEREAS, A child is abused or neglected every 11 minutes in Texas; and

WHEREAS, The number of Texas children in foster care due to child abuse increased by 30 percent between the years 2001 and 2005; and

WHEREAS, The direct costs of child abuse and neglect to our nation, including judicial, law enforcement, and health system responses to child maltreatment, are estimated at \$24 billion each year; in Texas, the costs associated with investigation, care, placement, and treatment of child abuse and neglect cases approach \$900 million per year; and

WHEREAS, The enormous costs of child abuse and neglect can be reduced by well-funded and robust child abuse prevention and early intervention programs that break the cycle of violence; and

WHEREAS, The 80th Texas Legislature is considering continuing and new funding for a number of effective programs that prevent child abuse and neglect, including early childhood education and health care, substance abuse treatment programs, home visitation programs, and parenting programs; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of child protection workers, medical and legal professionals, clergy members, social workers, school teachers, and other adults devote themselves to preventing and detecting child abuse and neglect, as well as addressing their effects; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of Texans serve as foster parents each year, opening their homes and hearts to children who have suffered child abuse and neglect and protecting them from further harm; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of children are adopted by loving parents each year in Texas, providing them with a new start in life after they have experienced maltreatment; and

WHEREAS, It is possible to fight child abuse and neglect with community-based programs that reflect the diversity, strengths, and resources of the many communities in this great state; and

WHEREAS, All Americans should seek to break the cycle of child abuse and neglect in our country and to give victimized children hope for the future; and

WHEREAS, All children need love, guidance, and safety and deserve to grow up in an environment free from violence and physical harm; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby recognize April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and commend all Texans who work on behalf of the abused and neglected children of our state; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

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Brimer	Estes	Lucio
Carona	Fraser	Shapiro
Deuell	Gallegos	Van de Putte
Duncan	Harris	West
Ellis	Jackson	Williams
Eltife	Janek	Zaffirini

Dewhurst, President of the Senate

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 2, 2007.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate