

By: Castro

H.R. No. 1340

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, All children need love, guidance, and safety and  
2 deserve to grow up in an environment free of violence and physical  
3 harm; and

4 WHEREAS, Child abuse and neglect are a serious and widespread  
5 problem in the State of Texas; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2007 alone, the Texas Department of Family and  
7 Protective Services received more than 240,000 reports of child  
8 abuse and neglect, and 223 Texas children died as a result of abuse  
9 or neglect; most of the victims were infants or preschool children;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The direct costs of child abuse and neglect include  
12 the costs of judicial, law enforcement, and health system responses  
13 to child maltreatment; in Texas, the costs associated with  
14 investigation, care, placement, and treatment of child abuse and  
15 neglect cases approach \$900 million per year; and

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

19 WHEREAS, There are a number of effective programs that  
20 prevent child abuse and neglect, including early childhood  
21 education and health care, substance abuse treatment programs, home  
22 visitation programs, and parenting programs; and

23 WHEREAS, Thousands of child protection workers, medical and  
24 legal professionals, clergy members, social workers, school

1 teachers, and other adults devote themselves to preventing,  
2 detecting, and addressing the effects of child abuse and neglect;  
3 and

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

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

10 WHEREAS, It is possible to fight child abuse and neglect with  
11 community-based programs that reflect the diversity, strengths,  
12 and resources of the many communities in this great state, and it is  
13 a worthy goal for all citizens to seek to break the cycle of child  
14 abuse and neglect in our country and to give victimized children  
15 hope for the future; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
17 Legislature hereby recognize April 2009 as Child Abuse Prevention  
18 Month and commend all Texans who work in behalf of the abused and  
19 neglected children of our state.