

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 709

**WHEREAS**, Children are our most precious resource, and they deserve to grow up in an environment free of abuse and neglect; no child should have to endure abuse, especially at the hands of an adult; unfortunately, children are far too often abused and neglected by the very adults who should be protecting and caring for them; and

**WHEREAS**, Child abuse and neglect is a complex and ongoing problem in our society, and every year the state confirms more victims; the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, which administers the state's Child Protective Services program, received more than 290,000 reports of child abuse and neglect in 2010; that year, 227 Texas children died because of abuse or neglect at the hands of their parents or guardians, and 66,897 children were confirmed victims of abuse or neglect; on any given day, there are more than 17,000 Texas children and teenagers in foster care; and

**WHEREAS**, Adults who are attentive to and aware of children's behaviors are in the best position to safeguard their well-being; the majority of Texas child abuse cases involve neglectful supervision, which is the placing of a child in or the failure to remove a child from a situation that a reasonable person would realize requires judgment or actions beyond the child's level of maturity, physical condition, or mental abilities and that results in bodily injury or substantial risk of immediate harm to the child; and

**WHEREAS**, No single entity by itself can prevent child abuse from happening; child abuse and neglect can be reduced by making sure that all families have the support they need and deserve in order to be able to raise their children in a healthy environment; communities must make every effort to promote programs that benefit children and their families; cities and towns across Texas need to work to provide the support families need to stay together and raise children and youth to be happy, secure, and stable adults; effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships among agencies, schools, religious organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community; and

**WHEREAS**, Everyone in the community should accept the responsibility of keeping children safe from abuse and neglect; parents, friends, neighbors, and other concerned Texans should report suspected abuse or neglect to available hotlines or by contacting local law enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, Since the 1980s, April has traditionally been designated as the month to recognize child abuse prevention; many people wear or display blue ribbons during April in memory of those who have died as a result of child abuse; however, we must be vigilant against child abuse not only during April but throughout the year; now, therefore, be it

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**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 82nd Legislature, hereby proclaim April of 2011 to be Child Abuse Prevention Month in Texas and urge all citizens to work together to help reduce child abuse and neglect; and, be it further

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

Nelson, Uresti

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 5, 2011.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate

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Member, Texas Senate