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By:  Parker H.R. No. 1144

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Children are essential to the continued prosperity and vitality of the Lone Star State, and the observance of National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April 2019 serves as an opportunity to focus public attention on the importance of protecting the most vulnerable members of our society; and

WHEREAS, More than 66,000 cases of child abuse and neglect were confirmed in Texas in 2018, and 20,681 children were removed from their homes as a result of this treatment; tragically, 211 children lost their lives due to abuse and neglect last year, and many of these victims were three years old or younger; and

WHEREAS, The short-term and long-term costs of child abuse are substantial; in 2018, the cost to address child maltreatment in Texas totaled more than $55 billion; these expenses included medical treatment, foster care, law enforcement, mental health care, and special education, as well as the financial toll caused by juvenile delinquency and lost productivity; and

WHEREAS, Child abuse and neglect also carry enormous emotional and societal costs, as many victims suffer from mental illness, substance abuse, developmental delays, teen pregnancy, academic underachievement, criminal behavior, unemployment, poverty, and chronic disease; and

WHEREAS, Every child deserves to grow up in a secure, stable, and nurturing home, and it is the responsibility of all Texans to help ensure the safety and well-being of children in the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize April 2019 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month in Texas and encourage all citizens to work together to protect the welfare of children throughout the state; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for TexProtects as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.