



**WHEREAS**, in 2024, there were 14,764 confirmed reports of child abuse and/or neglect recorded in Ohio; and

**WHEREAS**, on average, there were more than 40 confirmed reports of child abuse and/or neglect in Ohio a day; and

**WHEREAS**, abuse and neglect can cause damage to children's physical, mental, and social development that affects the rest of their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, the effects of adverse childhood experiences, such as abuse, can impact brain development that affects long-term functions and can lead to a higher risk for chronic diseases; learning disorders; smoking; alcohol and substance abuse; teen pregnancy; juvenile delinquency; and adult criminal behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, these negative impacts may be substantially mitigated by having positive experiences such as a trusted adult supporter during one's childhood; and

**WHEREAS**, Ohio recognizes the collective impact of parents, family members, educators, public officials, and faith-based organizations who share the responsibility to protect our youth and to ensure that children are safe and can grow up without fear of abuse and neglect to realize their full potential; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ohio Children's Trust Fund encourages Ohioans to raise awareness about the impact of child abuse and neglect and to recognize that children possess a unique ability to light up our lives and that we can all be a part of nurturing their bright spirit with love and care; and

**WHEREAS**, Ohio is committed to raising children in a secure and loving environment where they can thrive, develop character, and learn to be responsible citizens with the help of all Ohioans; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize April 2025 as

## OHIO CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2025

Mike DeWine  
Governor

