STATE OF OKLAHOMA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

Whereas, the safety of Oklahoma's children is of the utmost importance for the well-being of our families and communities; and

Whereas, child abuse is considered to be one of our nation's most serious public health problems, with scientific studies documenting the link between the abuse and neglect of children and a wide range of medical, emotional, psychological, and behavioral disorders; and

Whereas, the majority of child abuse cases curtail from situations and conditions that are preventable when our communities are supportive, active and engaged; and

Whereas, individuals, businesses, schools, and faith-based and community organizations must make children a top priority, and take action to support the physical, social, emotional and educational development and competency of all children; and

Whereas, during the month of April, the Oklahoma State Department of Health, Prevent Child Abuse Oklahoma/Parent Promise, The Parent Child Center of Tulsa, and all Oklahoma Exchange Clubs in collaboration with their statewide partners will be engaging individuals and communities throughout Oklahoma in a coordinated effort to prevent child abuse and neglect by promoting awareness of healthy child development, positive parenting practices, and the types of support families need within their communities; and

Whereas, Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families;

Now, Therefore, I, Mary Fallin, Governor, do hereby proclaim April 2018 as

"Child Abuse Prevention Month"

in the state of Oklahoma.

In Witness Whereof, *I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.*

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this 20th *day of* February *in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and* eighteen, *and of the State of Oklahoma in the* one hundred and tenth *year.*

GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA 1907

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE

Mary Fallin

GOVERNOR