



Office of the Governor
State of Missouri

Proclamation

WHEREAS, children are the foundation for a prosperous and innovative society, and the foundation for a child's growth and development is established when every community and Missourian takes responsibility for creating healthy environments where our children can thrive; and

WHEREAS, Missouri supports the Strengthening Families Protective Factors that reduce child abuse and neglect through encouraging Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development, Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Concrete Supports for Parents, and Social and Emotional Competence of Children; and

WHEREAS, a child's early experience of being nurtured and developing a bond with a consistent, caring adult affects all aspects of behavior and development and is associated later in life with better academic grades, healthier choices, positive peer interactions, and an increased ability to cope with stress; and

WHEREAS, Missouri recognizes the responsibility of every adult to protect children from all forms of child abuse, including child sexual abuse, and recognizes the importance for all adults, youth-serving organizations, schools and communities to form protective barriers around children; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs are essential and succeed because of community partnerships created among citizens, social service agencies, schools, businesses, law enforcement agencies, faith-based organizations, civic organizations and other child-serving agencies; and

WHEREAS, April 8, 2016 is Go Blue Day, a day when everyone is encouraged to wear blue to build awareness about child abuse and neglect prevention and inspire change by focusing on community activities and public policies that prioritize prevention.

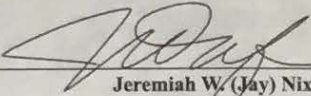
NOW THEREFORE, I, Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim April 2016 to be

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION MONTH

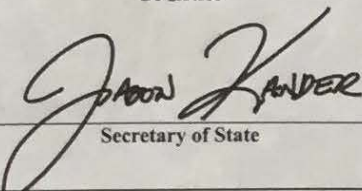
in Missouri, and urge all citizens to actively participate in the care, well-being and protection of our children.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 5th day of April, 2016.




Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor

Attest:


Secretary of State