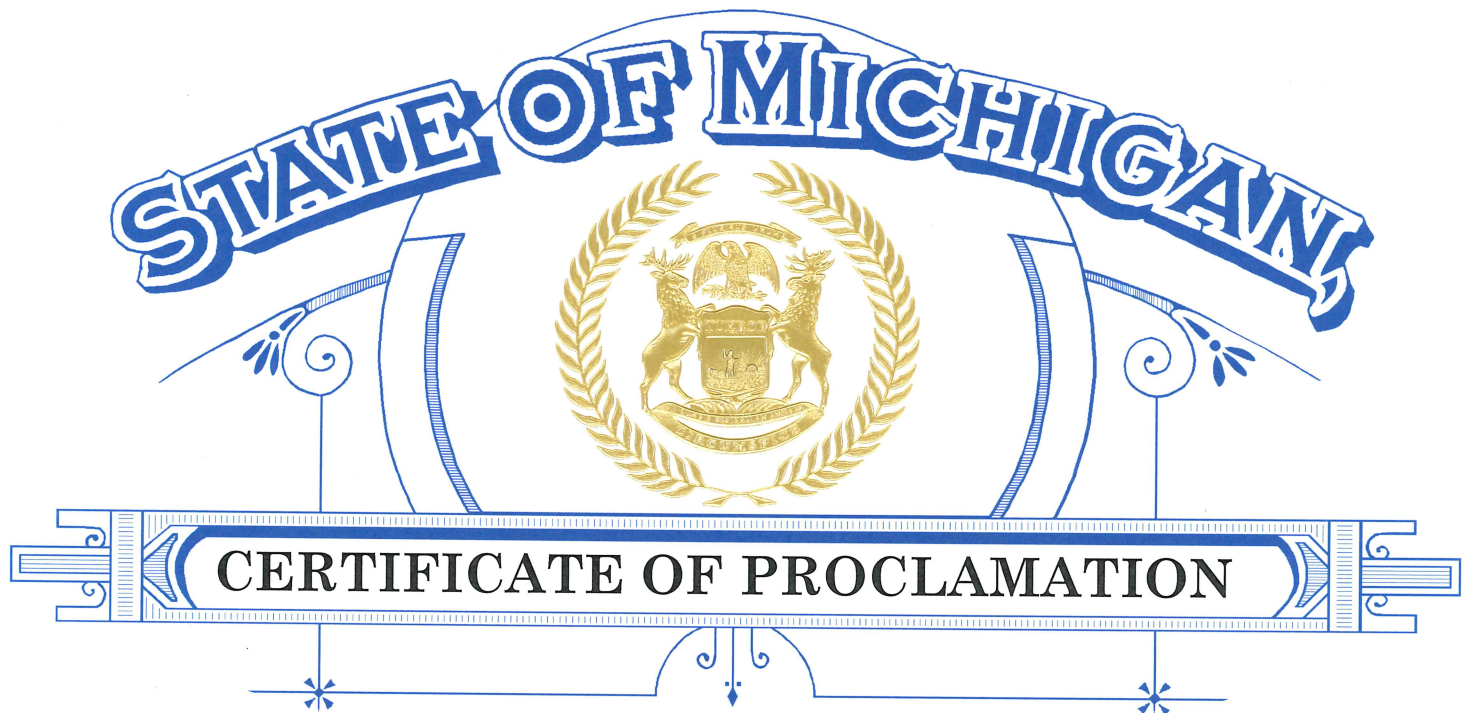




ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN,  
I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim

April 2020  
as  
**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, last year, 33,060 children were abused or neglected in Michigan, totaling 91 children each day; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that in 2019, 63 of Michigan's children died from child abuse and neglect; and,

**WHEREAS**, unemployment, poverty, parental drug and alcohol abuse, stress, social isolation, and violent communities are identified risk factors for child maltreatment; and,

**WHEREAS**, both statewide and nationally, 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 to a wide range of medical, emotional, psychological, and behavioral disorders, such as depression, alcoholism, drug abuse, severe obesity, and juvenile delinquency; and,

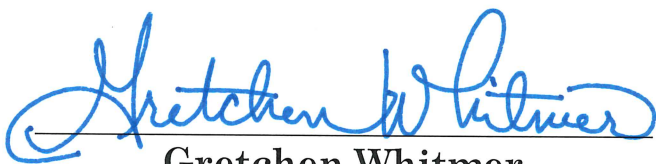
**WHEREAS**, prevention strengthens families and is cost effective, and research shows that spending for child abuse prevention programs saves dollars that would be spent for crisis-oriented programming such as, protective services, foster care, special education, and counseling; and,

**WHEREAS**, promoting family functioning and resiliency, social support systems, concrete supports, nurturing and attachment, and knowledge of parenting and child development all are known protective factors, which prevent child maltreatment and help to strengthen families; and,

**WHEREAS**, child abuse prevention is an acknowledged community responsibility, and, on behalf of Michigan's children, this month and each month thereafter, we join with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Children's Trust Fund to commit to always Stand UP for Children and always remember The Power of One; this statewide initiative under the leadership of the Children's Trust Fund asserts that the power of one person, one community, one dollar, one action, during April will help to protect children from abuse and neglect throughout Michigan;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of the state of Michigan, do hereby proclaim April 2020 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Michigan.



  
**Gretchen Whitmer**  
Governor

