



**BALDWIN COUNTY COMMISSION
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

PROCLAMATION

PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2024 AS "CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH" AND "SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH" IN BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, preventing child abuse and neglect is a community problem that depends on involvement from people throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, children deserve the best we have within us and they look to us to be their protectors, role models and heroes; and

WHEREAS, children who are loved and nurtured grow up to love and nurture others; and

WHEREAS, children who survive abuse and neglect may carry the burden of their maltreatment into adulthood; and

WHEREAS, children who have been victims of abuse and neglect are more likely to suffer from substance abuse, depression, learning disabilities, academic failure, emotional and behavioral disorders, and the inability to foster healthy relationships; and

WHEREAS, child maltreatment knows no social or economic boundaries and occurs in every neighborhood in America; and

WHEREAS, National Child Abuse Prevention Month is a month-long observance, during which communities and organizations raise awareness about the critical issues of child abuse and neglect and educate the public on prevention; and

WHEREAS, according to the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN), every 68 seconds an American is sexually assaulted and every 9 minutes that victim is a child and only 25 out of every 1,000 perpetrators will end up in prison; and

WHEREAS, only 310 out of every 1,000 sexual assaults are reported to police, meaning more than two out of three go unreported; and

WHEREAS, the most important thing we can do for our victims is believe them and support them; and

WHEREAS, National Sexual Assault Awareness Month seeks to raise awareness, find solutions, and foster community involvement as well as remember survivors of sexual assault and offer tribute to all victims of sexual assault throughout America each year; and

WHEREAS, the effects of child abuse and neglect and sexual assault are felt by the entire community, requiring all to join together to take action to create a safer environment for everyone; and

WHEREAS, the Baldwin County Commission commends the Baldwin County CARE House, The Lighthouse, and The Exchange Club Family Center for encouraging all citizens to become more aware of child abuse and neglect and sexual assault within Baldwin County, and for remaining strong and persistent advocates toward the support of all victims of such terrible acts; now therefore

BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE BALDWIN COUNTY COMMISSION, IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED, that the month of April 2024 is hereby set aside as "Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month" and "Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Month," in Baldwin County, Alabama, and everyone is encouraged to join CARE House, The Lighthouse, and The Exchange Club Family Center in their collective efforts to participate in the prevention of the terrible acts of child abuse neglect, and sexual assault throughout Baldwin County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the Seal of Baldwin County, Alabama, to be affixed on this the 2nd day of April 2024.

Commissioner Billie Jo Underwood, Chairman

ATTEST:

Roger H. Rendleman, County Administrator