[Child Abuse Prevention Month - April 2026]

Resolution recognizing the month of April 2026, as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the City and County of San Francisco.

WHEREAS, Child Abuse Prevention Month has been observed each April nationally since 1983, bringing communities, organizations, and governments together to affirm their commitment to the safety and well-being of all children; and

WHEREAS, This year's statewide theme, "Strong Families, Safe Futures," demonstrates how community well-being depends on the empowerment of families, the tagline "When we care together, families thrive" reiterates our shared responsibility and the power of collective action and community connection; and

WHEREAS, Child abuse, which includes physical, emotional, exploitative, and sexual abuse, and neglect of a child's basic needs impact not just the child but also the entire family, community, and society at large; and

WHEREAS, Abuse often occurs when families face overwhelming stress without adequate support, the physical, mental, and emotional effects persist long after the harm occurs and result in ongoing costs to society; and

WHEREAS, In 2025, San Francisco had a reported 4,302 youth with an allegation of child abuse and 431 youth with a substantiation, the cumulative financial impact to the San Francisco community based on these preliminary estimations for the 431 verified child victims in 2025 are in excess of $260 million; and

WHEREAS, Abused children are more likely to experience negative educational, health, and behavioral outcomes, which contribute to many of San Francisco's challenges, such as homelessness, chronic health issues, high school dropout rates; and

WHEREAS, Rates of both allegations and substantiation of child abuse disproportionately impact BIPOC families, exacerbating issues of structural and systemic racism; and

WHEREAS, Direct investment in social programs for children, youth, and families prevents child abuse and neglect before it occurs, providing short and long-term benefits that far outweigh the costs of crisis response and treatment; and

WHEREAS, Effective prevention efforts succeed because of collaboration between community, public organizations, and accessible, non-stigmatizing services; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco has invested in several key prevention strategies such as the Family Resource Center Initiative, which is jointly funded by the Human Services Agency, the Department of Early Childhood, and the Department of Children, Youth and Families; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco has a dedicated network of community organizations, family support providers, case workers, advocates, health workers, educators, foster and adoptive families, and volunteers who work tirelessly at every level of prevention, intervention, and treatment; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco remains committed to cultivating a city where we continue to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect, the need to support all vulnerable children and their families, and prioritize prevention; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby recognizes April 2026, as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the City and County of San Francisco; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That all San Franciscans are encouraged to take shared responsibility for child and family well-being, ensuring that every family has what they need to be safe, healthy, and strong; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco remains steadfast in its efforts to strengthen, expand, and fund the prevention of child abuse and neglect, along with intervention programs to ensure the safety, healing, and long-term well-being of families because, when we care together, families thrive.