

Introduced by the Law Enforcement Committee of the:

INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AWARENESS FOR AND DESIGNATING APRIL 2011
AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

RESOLUTION #11-127

WHEREAS, in 2009, there were 176,021 Michigan families investigated for suspected child abuse or neglect and 30,799 Michigan children confirmed to be victims of abuse or neglect; and

WHEREAS, in 2005-06, there were 45 Michigan children who died as a result of abuse, 44% who were between the ages of 1-4, and 49% of these children were under 1 year of age; and

WHEREAS, in 2005-06, there were 38 child neglect death cases, 13 percent were children between the ages of 1-4, and 63 percent were children younger than 1 year of age; and

WHEREAS, abused or neglected children have a higher risk in adulthood for developing health problems, including alcoholism, depression, drug abuse, eating disorders, obesity, suicide, and certain chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, a National Institute of Justice study indicated that abused or neglected children:

- are 11 times more likely to be arrested for criminal behavior as juveniles, and
- are 2.7 times more likely to be arrested for violent and criminal behavior as adults; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 1/3 of abused or neglected children grow up to abuse or neglect their own children; and

WHEREAS, research has proven the success of quality home visitation, parenting-coaching and family support programs that prevent children from being abused or neglected, which also reduce subsequent delinquency, and improve other outcomes for children – including home visiting models like the Michigan Zero-to-3 Secondary Prevention Initiative, the Nurse-Family Partnership, Healthy Families, Early Head Start, and Parents as Teachers; and

WHEREAS, providing community-based services to families at-risk or already impacted by child abuse or neglect may be far less costly than:

- the emotional and physical damage inflicted on children who have been abused or neglected, and
- providing to abused or neglected children services, including child protective, law enforcement, court, foster care, or health care services, or
- providing treatment to adults recovering from child abuse, or
- providing incarceration to convicted criminals of child abuse and neglect; and

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WHEREAS, child abuse or neglect has long-term economic and societal costs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners supports the awareness for and designates April 2011 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, recognizes and applauds the national, state, and community organizations and their skilled employees that work to promote awareness about child abuse or neglect, including by identifying risk factors and developing prevention strategies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, supports the proclamations issued on the state and federal levels declaring April 2011 as 'Michigan Child Abuse Prevention Month' and 'National Child Abuse Prevention Month'.

LAW ENFORCEMENT: Yeas: Celentino, Holman, De Leon, Copedge, Schafer, Dragonetti
Nays: None **Absent:** None **Approved 3/31/11**