



WHEREAS, children are our most valuable resource in Gaston County and all children in our community deserve to grow up in safe and healthy homes; and,

WHEREAS, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for its victims; and,

WHEREAS, according to the National Children's Alliance, more than 11,000 children are abused each year in North Carolina and more than 380,000 children are abused each year in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention strategies are created, nurtured, and implemented through strong partnerships with the Gaston County Department of Social Services, The Lighthouse Children's Advocacy Center, Gaston County Schools, the faith community, and local law enforcement; and,

WHEREAS, The Lighthouse Children's Advocacy Center served 489 child victims of abuse or neglect in 2024; and,

WHEREAS, through community partnerships and support, The Lighthouse Children's Advocacy Center continues to serve as a beacon of hope for families in Gaston County, providing a place of healing and hope for children and their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners proclaims the month of April 2025 as

Child Abuse Prevention Month

and calls upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders, and businesses to increase their participation in efforts to support families, thereby strengthening the community in which we live.

Chad Brown, Chairman

Jim Bailey

Bob Hovis

Cathy Cloninger, Vice-Chair

Tom Keigher

Allen R. Fraley

Scott Shehan

To be Adopted the 22nd Day of April 2025



Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
www.gastongov.com

DHHS - Social Services Division

Board Action

File #: 25-154

Commissioner Keigher - DHHS - Social Services Division - Proclamation - To Proclaim the Month of April 2025 as **Child Abuse Prevention Month** in Gaston County

STAFF CONTACT

Shannon Myers - Social Services Director - 704-862-7930

BACKGROUND

To Proclaim April 2025 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

ATTACHMENTS

Proclamation

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	JBailey	CBrown	CCloninger	AFraley	BHovis	TKeigher	SShehan	Vote
2025-116	04/22/2025	BH	SS	A	A	A	AB	A	AB	A	U

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A=AYE, N=NAY, AB=ABSENT, ABS=ABSTAIN, U=UNANIMOUS