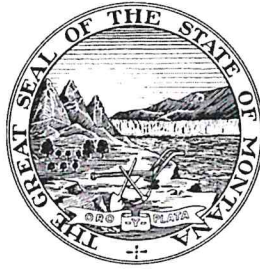


STATE OF MONTANA



Governor's Proclamation



WHEREAS, *Montana's future depends on the healthy development of our children; and*

WHEREAS, *child abuse is a serious public health issue with wide-ranging societal consequences, as data shows the link between the abuse and neglect of children and a range of long-term medical, emotional, psychological, and behavioral issues; and*

WHEREAS, *working as a community to prevent child abuse and neglect must be a priority to support the physical, emotional, social, and educational well-being of all children; and*

WHEREAS, *statewide and community prevention programs serve as proven and effective ways to reduce child abuse and neglect no matter a child's background; and*

WHEREAS, *child abuse prevention activities succeed because of partnerships between child welfare professionals, education, health, community and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families; and*

WHEREAS, *the best-equipped parents and caregivers have support systems of families and friends, know where to find public resources, and remain resilient in challenging times to provide safe, nurturing environments for children;*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Gianforte, Governor of the State of Montana, do hereby proclaim April 2021 and the week of April 10-16, to be

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES MONTH, and WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

in Montana to advance the cause of our most precious resource – our children.



GREG GIANFORTE
Governor