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## Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

**Whereas**, children are vital to our state's future success, prosperity and quality of life as well as being our most vulnerable assets;

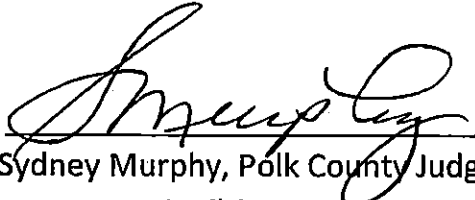
**Whereas**, all children deserve to have the safe, stable, nurturing homes and communities they need to foster their healthy growth and development;

**Whereas**, child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility affecting both the current and future quality of life of a community;

**Whereas**, communities that provide parents with the social support, knowledge of parenting and child development and concrete resources they need to cope with stress and nurture their children ensure all children grow to their full potential;

**Whereas**, effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of partnerships created among citizens, human service agencies, schools, faith communities, health care providers, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community;

**Therefore**, I do hereby proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.

  
Sydney Murphy, Polk County Judge  
April 9, 2024