

FW: April is Child Abuse Prevention Month**Gibson, Zackary** <Zackary.Gibson@eog.myflorida.com>

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Dear Mayor Katica,

Last week at the Capitol highlighted many important activities to include Children's Day and the Florida League of Cities' legislative action days. One common theme was a focus on health, in particular, mental health. State and local governments continue to play an important role on this front to preserve and improve quality of life and public safety to advance economic growth initiatives and opportunities in communities across Florida.

This is also why my office has partnered with Executive Director Scott Dudley with the Florida League of Cities, President Matt Surrency with the Florida League of Mayors, and President Leo Longworth with the Florida League of Cities, to invite you to join with us in recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention month and participate in the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign.

The Pinwheels for Prevention campaign is Florida's initiative to raise awareness of the important role everyone can play to promote healthy child development and prevent child abuse and neglect. The campaign symbol, a blue and silver pinwheel, represents happy, healthy childhoods and is symbolic of how one person can make a positive difference in the life of a child.

Early experiences in childhood have a great impact on our lives. The research behind adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) has shown that abuse, neglect, household dysfunction, and violence increases the risk for poor health outcomes later in life and can limit opportunities to become productive and self sufficient (<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/acesstudy/index.html>).

Cities across our state provide many services and supports that make a positive difference in the lives of their residents. We ask for you to consider these strategies as a way to show your support of the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign:

- Issuing a proclamation/resolution recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- Planting a pinwheel garden at City Hall and/or other areas throughout the city to symbolize your support for healthy child development.
- Using the topic of child abuse prevention as a platform to highlight how your city supports and strengthens children and families.
- Utilizing the city's website and social media to promote resources and supports available for children and families.
- Hosting a screening of the film Resilience (<https://kprjfilms.co/resilience/>) that highlights the ACEs study and intervention to treat and prevent toxic stress.
- Visit a school(s) to talk with children about the importance of health, safety and education.
- Convene meetings with state agency and local representatives in your area to discuss collaborative strategies to address social issues impacting communities.

More information on the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign can be found at <http://www.preventchildabusefl.org>. Please let us know if you have any questions or how we can support your efforts by facilitating connections to state agency and local representatives in your area. Children are our future is more than just a saying...our children will be the leaders of tomorrow who will build upon the legacy and foundation that you create. Our efforts now will help shape the future.

Thank you in advance for your consideration to support Child Abuse Prevention month and the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign.

Best regards,

Zackary Gibson

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