

**Substitute for House Resolution No. 265.**

A resolution to declare April 2016 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Since 1983, April has been designated National Child Abuse Prevention Month and has served to increase public awareness of the need to ensure the safety and welfare of children; and

Whereas, Crossing all racial, economic, and geographic boundaries, and including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and physical neglect, the repercussions of child abuse are long-lasting, not only for the victims and their families, but also for communities and society as a whole; and

Whereas, Nationally in 2014, an estimated 702,000 children were victims of maltreatment at an expense of at least \$124 billion annually, costing the average American family \$1,400 each year; and

Whereas, Nationwide, 1.8 million reports of maltreatment were investigated in 2014; and

Whereas, In Michigan, the rate of children investigated in families rose by 52% between fiscal years 2006 and 2014, from 63 of every 1,000 children to 95 of every 1,000 children; and

Whereas, According to the Kids Count in Michigan Report, in 2014 more than 200,000 children in Michigan live in families investigated for abuse or neglect; and

Whereas, A focus on promoting and building parent resiliency, providing social supports, and educating about child development will help build and strengthen positive relationships between parents/caregivers and the children in their care; and

Whereas, We recognize that no one person can do everything, but that everyone can do something, and together we can create change for the better; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare April 2016 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the state of Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That the members of this legislative body encourage all Michiganders to work to build safe communities, promote strong families, and raise healthy children by supporting those who are striving to end the tragic abuse and neglect of children and allow them to realize their full potential.