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Joint Board Matter with Supervisor Lusk

Request to Designate April 2022 as Child Abuse Prevention Month

Members of the Board,

April is a time to recognize the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse. The ongoing pandemic has continued to increase stressors on families, thereby increasing risk factors for child maltreatment. Nationally, in 2020 nearly 3.1 million children were subject to abuse and neglect allegations with Child Protective Services. In the Commonwealth of Virginia, more than 52,000 children were reported as possible victims of abuse or neglect in State Fiscal Year 2021. In Fairfax County, more than 2,600 children were involved in Child Protective Services in Fiscal Year 2021.

The lives of children can be positively changed and even saved by active and aware community members making a critically important decision to ask more questions and offer help. We know through research that adverse childhood experiences like child abuse result in long term health impacts. Fortunately, the trauma of child abuse and neglect is preventable.

Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, nurturing, and stable environment. Fairfax County is dedicated to the safety of children and providing the appropriate supports to parents to keep families healthy.

Therefore, I move without objection that the Board designate April 2022 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Fairfax County and present a proclamation to the Fairfax County Department of Family Services at its meeting on March 22, 2022.