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Joint Board Matter with Supervisor Lusk

**Request to Designate April 2021 as Child Abuse Prevention Month
in Fairfax County**

Members of the Board,

April is a time to recognize the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse. In the 2019 Child Maltreatment Report from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, it was stated that there were 656, 243 victims of child abuse and neglect. Here at home in Fairfax County, there are over 3,000 children involved with Child Protective Services assessments and investigations each year.

Children's lives can be positively changed and even saved by active and aware community members making that 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 2021 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Fairfax County at its meeting on March 23, 2021.