



**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

***CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH***

**WHEREAS, Florida's future depends on nurturing the healthy development of over four million children currently in our state; and**

**WHEREAS, the abuse and neglect of children can cause severe, costly and lifelong problems; and**

**WHEREAS, every child has a right to be safe, healthy, and educationally and developmentally on track; and**

**WHEREAS, research shows that parents and caregivers who have support systems and know how to seek help in times of trouble are more resilient and better able to provide safe environments and nurturing experiences for their children; and**

**WHEREAS, individuals, businesses, schools, and faith-based and community organizations must make children a top priority and take action to support the physical, social, emotional, and educational development and competency of all children; and**

**WHEREAS, during the month of April, Prevent Child Abuse Florida, in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection, the Florida Department of Children and Families and the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, will implement Pinwheels for Prevention, a statewide campaign promoting awareness of healthy child development, positive parenting practices, and the types of concrete support families need within their communities;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby proclaim April 2017 as *Child Abuse Prevention Month* and urge all Floridians to engage in activities whose purpose is to strengthen families and communities to provide the optimal environment for healthy child development.**



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, in the year two thousand seventeen.**

  
Governor