



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Alaska's children deserve to grow up in safe and nurturing environments to ensure they reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, Alaska has the distinction of having the third highest per-capita rate of child maltreatment in the nation. One child in Alaska is reported as a victim of child abuse or neglect every 33 minutes, and 40 percent of these alleged victims are children ages six and under. These facts speak volumes for the prevalence of child abuse and neglect in Alaska and show the necessity of its prevention; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect not only cause immediate harm to children, but are also linked to a wide range of traumatic psychological, emotional, medical, and behavioral issues, which can lead to criminal behavior, substance abuse, depression, increased health problems, and suicide: and

WHEREAS, there is no issue of greater national importance than ensuring the health and safety of our children. Valdez is committed to building stronger families through programs designed to prevent child abuse and neglect. All citizens should be aware of the impact of child abuse and its prevention within the community, and should support and protect children to assure all children are safe from abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, Advocates for Victims of Violence encourages all citizens to find ways to cherish our children, strengthen our families, to work together to eliminate child abuse and neglect and to strive toward a shared dream in which every childhood is a happy one.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ruth E. Knight, Mayor of the City of Valdez, Alaska, do hereby proclaim April 2017 as **Child Abuse Prevention Month** in Valdez and call upon all citizens, community agencies, religious organizations, medical facilities, and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to prevent child abuse, thereby strengthening the communities in which we live.

Dated this 4th Day of April, 2017

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

ATTEST:

Ruth E. Knight, Mayor

Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk