



Spencer J. Cox

Governor

Declaration

Whereas, child abuse and neglect are ongoing – yet preventable – issues affecting families across Utah;

Whereas, 9,062 children in Utah were found to be victims of child abuse and neglect during fiscal year 2021;

Whereas, high stress, substance abuse, social isolation, and lack of parental support are among the common risk factors associated with child abuse and neglect;

Whereas, chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance use problems in adulthood have been linked to adverse childhood experiences such as abuse and neglect;

Whereas, prevention is possible by supporting Utah's families and making meaningful connections and partnerships between schools, professional health services, community and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement, Tribal Nations, and other organizations;

Whereas, research shows that families who demonstrate protective factors – parental resilience, social connections, knowledge of parenting and child development, concrete supports such as housing or financial assistance, and the social-emotional competence of children – are better able to navigate difficult situations; and,

Whereas, Utahns can best ensure the safety and well-being of children in our state by strengthening families and supporting these protective factors in our communities;

Now, Therefore, I, Spencer J. Cox, governor of the state of Utah, do hereby declare April 2022 as

Family Strengthening Month in Utah

Spencer J. Cox
Governor