

A JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

IN THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION

JENNIFER WOODS INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING JOINT RESOLUTION

A JOINT RESOLUTION

A JOINT RESOLUTION recognizing the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

WHEREAS, in response to an alarming rate of child abuse and neglect in the United States, the U.S. Congress resolved that the month of April be designated National Child Abuse Prevention month and asked President Ronald Reagan to issue a proclamation asking government agencies and the American people to observe the same;

WHEREAS, on May 1, 1987, President Reagan issued a Proclamation proclaiming the month of April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month, calling upon individuals, communities, and state local agencies to protect children and work together to put an end to child abuse;

WHEREAS, since the designation of April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month, communities nationwide have joined together to raise awareness of child abuse, provide information on preventing child abuse, and support families and victims;

WHEREAS, Council and the Nation recognizes that every child deserves a safe and nurturing environment and wishes to join other communities and governments in recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month;

WHEREAS, Native children are 7 times more likely than other children to experience criminal physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or a combination of these;

WHEREAS, adverse childhood experiences can have a lasting negative impact on children's behavioral, physical, and cognitive development and violence harms the core of the human spirit and jeopardizes the future well-being of our nations, villages, and communities;

WHEREAS, violence against children is not the tradition of our People and our Ancestors have taught the People that children are sacred and are to be protected and honored;

WHEREAS, the well-being of the Nation's children is critical to keeping the Nation's self-governance, self-determination, traditions, and ways of life alive; and

WHEREAS, ending child abuse requires the leadership of survivors, support of Tribal Leaders, the collaborative efforts of Law Enforcement, the Tribal Justice System, public health officials,

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Tribal Members, and members of the broader communities within the Nation's Reservation, and requires that everyone commit to our Indigenous culture of non-violence, respect, honor, love, and compassion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to the joint motion by Councilwoman Jennifer Woods and Chief Gary Batton, by the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma that this Joint Resolution be cited as recognition of the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

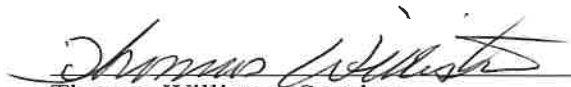
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution recognizes all the efforts of those parents, families, guardians, social workers, and other individuals and groups whom dedicate their efforts to support the healthy and safe raising of all children and those who endeavor to prevent child abuse.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as speaker of the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of twelve (12) seats. Eight (8) members must be present to constitute a quorum. I further certify that eleven (11) members answered roll call and that a quorum was present at the Regular Session of the Tribal Council at Tuskahoma, Oklahoma on April 12, 2025. I further certify that the foregoing Council Resolution CR- 06 - 25 was adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of eleven (11) members, zero (0) negative votes, and zero (0) abstaining.



Anthony Dillard, Interim Secretary
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council



Thomas Williston, Speaker
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council



Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Date 4-16-25

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MONTH**

Purpose/Need of Joint Council Resolution: The purpose of this Joint Resolution is to recognize that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. In doing so, the Council and the Chief seek to recognize that child abuse is a widespread but preventable problem. The Council also recognizes the efforts that all Tribal Leaders, Law Enforcement Organizations, Health Officials, and Tribal Programs, families, and tribal members undertake to ensure every child has a safe and nurturing environment to in which to learn and grow. Through the tenets of faith, family and culture, we can protect our precious and sacred children. By working together, families, neighbors, teachers, faith leaders, and others can create a culture where prevention is the priority, and no child has to suffer the devastating effects of abuse or neglect.

**Title of Council Resolution: A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING APRIL AS
NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

Choctaw Nation Agency: Tribal Council

Budget: N/A

Match Required: N/A

Request by: Jennifer Woods

Suggested Legislative Committee Review: Tribal Council, Government