**Child Abuse Prevention Month 2017**

**Sample Proclamation**

Whereas, our children are our most valuable resource and will shape the future of ***{community name}***;

Whereas child abuse and neglect directly harms children and increases the likelihood of long-term physical and mental health problems, alcohol and substance abuse, continued family violence and criminal behavior;

Whereas, children suffering from child abuse are more likely to: engage in risky behavior, perform poorly in school, develop unhealthy relationships, suffer from depression, attempt suicide, and express violent aggression, and

Whereas, only $1 is spent on preventing child abuse in Iowa for every $50 spent on treating it; and

Whereas, Iowa is leading research efforts to better understand the negative long-term outcomes of child abuse and neglect among adults through the Adverse Childhood Experiences study (ACEs), which shows that poor physical health, mental health, and financial health in adulthood is attributed to adverse experiences in childhood, including abuse and neglect; and

Whereas, the risk of child abuse is reduced through strong social supports for adults and children; and

Whereas, research shows that the presence of one caring relationship in a child’s life mitigates negative outcomes and reduces risk factors, resulting in better physical health, mental health, and financial health; and

Whereas, positive social supports for children and adults are key factors to improving social well-being in Iowa; and

Whereas, the Connections Matter® initiative supported by **{name of organization}** promotes the development of positive social supports and communicates the healing power of relationships in children’s development and the community’s growth; and

Now Therefore, I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, do hereby proclaim April 2017 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in **{name of community}** and urge all citizens to in our community to increase their participation in building caring connections with families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the community in which we live.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the **{City, County}** of Iowa on this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_day of April, 2017