

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 679

Expressing support for the goals and ideals of National Child Abuse
Prevention Month.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 8, 2024

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Ms. HASSAN)
submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the goals and ideals of National Child
Abuse Prevention Month.

Whereas children are fundamental to the success of the
United States and will shape the future of the United
States;

Whereas elected representatives and leaders in the commu-
nities of the United States must be ever vigilant and
proactive in support of evidence-based means to prevent
child abuse and neglect and support families;

Whereas adverse childhood experiences (referred to in this
preamble as “ACEs”) are traumatic experiences that
occur during childhood with lasting effects and include
experiences of violence, abuse, or neglect;

Whereas at least 5 of the top 10 leading causes of death are associated with ACEs;

Whereas preventing ACEs could reduce many health conditions, including—

- (1) up to 21,000,000 cases of depression;
- (2) up to 1,900,000 cases of heart disease; and
- (3) up to 2,500,000 cases of overweight and obesity;

Whereas every child is filled with tremendous promise, and we all have a collective responsibility to prevent ACEs, foster the potential of every child, and promote positive childhood experiences;

Whereas primary prevention of child abuse and neglect can reduce the lifetime economic burden associated with child maltreatment;

Whereas, in 2022, an estimated 7,530,000 children were referred to child protective services agencies, alleging maltreatment;

Whereas, in 2022, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline received nearly 32,000,000 reports of suspected online child sexual exploitation, which marked the highest number of reports ever received in 1 year;

Whereas reports indicate that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 20 boys experience sexual abuse before their eighteenth birthday, with more than 42,000,000 estimated child sexual abuse survivors in the United States;

Whereas approximately 1 in 7 children in the United States experienced child abuse, neglect, or both between 2022 and 2023;

Whereas 43 percent of children exposed to inappropriate sexual content on social media are under 13 years old, and 1 in 5 are 9 years old or younger;

Whereas 91 percent of child sexual abuse victims are abused by a person they know and trust;

Whereas children who are sexually abused, especially when not provided appropriate treatment and support, often suffer lifelong consequences, such as physical and mental health challenges and higher risk of drug and alcohol misuse and suicide;

Whereas education and awareness of possible signs of child abuse and neglect should be prioritized for purposes of prevention;

Whereas by intervening to prevent adversity and build resilience during the most critical years of development of a child, voluntary, evidence-based, home-visiting programs have shown positive impact on—

- (1) reducing the recurrence of child abuse and neglect;
- (2) decreased low-birthweight babies;
- (3) improved school readiness for children; and
- (4) increased high school graduation rates: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) expresses support for the goals and ideals of
3 National Child Abuse Prevention Month;

4 (2) recognizes child abuse and neglect and child
5 sexual abuse are preventable and that a healthy and
6 prosperous society depends on strong families and
7 communities;

1 (3) supports efforts to increase the awareness
2 of, and provide education for, the general public of
3 the United States, with respect to preventing child
4 abuse and neglect and building protective factors for
5 families;

6 (4) supports the efforts to help survivors of
7 childhood sexual abuse heal;

8 (5) supports justice for victims of childhood
9 sexual abuse; and

10 (6) recognizes the need for prevention, healing,
11 and justice efforts related to childhood abuse and
12 neglect and sexual abuse.

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