



# Proclamation

By the Mayor of Prattville, Alabama

*WHEREAS, more than 28,000 Alabama children and their families require the services of the Department of Human Resources last year; and*

*WHEREAS, there were 330 reports of child abuse and neglect assessed by the Autauga County Department of Human Resources last year involving 460 children; and*

*WHEREAS, 137 of those children were served at Butterfly Bridge Children's Advocacy Center due to allegations of sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, and witness to crimes; and*

*WHEREAS, the effect of child abuse and neglect are community problems and finding solutions depends on all segments of the society; and*

*WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the risk for children in all circumstances, as families and communities may become isolated and face diminished resources; and*

*WHEREAS, while children spending additional time on-line for education and recreation during this pandemic, they are at an increased risk of on-line exploitation and cyber bullying; and*

*WHEREAS, Exposure to childhood trauma has a powerful adverse effect on life-long physical and mental health and is recognized nationally as a major public health issue; and*

*WHEREAS, child abuse can be prevented when all citizens become aware of the importance of supporting community leaders and parents to raise their children in a safe, nurturing environment, and*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Mayor Bill Gillespie, do hereby proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Autauga County in 2020. We 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 which we live.*



Given Under My Hand and the Seal of the City  
of Prattville on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2020.  
Mayor Bill Gillespie, Jr.

*Bill Gillespie*