



# COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

## **A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH AND AWARENESS FOR ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES.**

*WHEREAS, research over the last two decades in the fields of neuroscience, biology, and public health, reveals that experiences in the formative first years of a child's life can influence their biological development and shape their physical and mental health over their lifetime; and*

*WHEREAS, Adverse Childhood Experiences or "ACEs" are defined as traumatic experiences that occur during childhood, including physical, emotional or sexual abuse, physical and emotional neglect, exposure to domestic violence, substance abuse, untreated mental illness, incarceration of a household member, or parental separation; and*

*WHEREAS, the first comprehensive ACEs study published in 1998, found that two-thirds of participants had at least one adverse childhood experience and one in six participants had four or more and found the number of adverse childhood experiences and a person's risk for disease and negative health behaviors into adulthood are strongly correlated; and*

*WHEREAS, early interventions can offer an opportunity to heal the impacts of ACEs and toxic stress; and*

*WHEREAS, identifying evidence-based solutions to reduce children's exposure to adverse childhood experiences, addressing the impacts of those experiences through early interventions, and investing in preventative health care and mental wellness for our most vulnerable children will positively affect their future health outcomes;*

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED**, that the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors proclaims April 2019 as "ACEs Awareness and Child Abuse Prevention Month" with a commitment to public awareness and early intervention strategies that reduce children's exposure to adverse childhood experiences, address the impacts of those experiences, and invest in preventive health care, mental health, and wellness interventions.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2019 by unanimous vote of all members present.



**ATTEST:**

*Monique [Signature]*  
Clerk of the Board

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 1st District

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 2nd District

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 3rd District

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 4th District

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 5th District