Note: April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and is an opportunity to highlight the great work that CASA does on behalf of children. Consider approaching your local city council and/or county commissioners court and asking them to approve a resolution declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and recognizing the work your volunteers do, as well as other organizations that work to ensure children and families are safe and healthy. You may be asked to supply the wording for such a resolution. Below is sample text which you can rework as you see appropriate. Please make sure that all highlighted areas are filled in and the highlight removed.

**Proclamation: Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month, April 2021**

**WHEREAS**, in Federal fiscal year 2020, the Texas Department of Family & Protective Services confirmed 68,461 victims of child abuse or neglect, including XX in COUNTY/IES; and

**WHEREAS**, child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that can have lifelong consequences for victims; and

**WHEREAS**, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children;

**WHEREAS**, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the meaningful connections and partnerships created between child welfare, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses, and law enforcement agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that benefit children and their families;

**WHEREAS**, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, nurturing environment;

**WHEREAS**, prevention remains the best defense for children and families;

**WHEREAS**, the impact of abuse and neglect has long-term personal, economic and social costs; therefore, hurting Texas’ future;

**WHEREAS**, Court Appointed Special Advocates® – CASA volunteers – are assigned by the court to speak up for a child’s best interest and help ensure a child’s voice is heard;

**WHEREAS**, every child in foster care deserves a CASA volunteer, but roughly less than half the children in care do not have a CASA volunteer;

**WHEREAS**, 11,066 CASA volunteers spoke up for the best interest of 29,229 children in Texas last year;

**WHEREAS**, YOUR PROGRAM NAME, Child Protective Services, Child Advocacy Centers, foster parents, teachers and others work to ensure that children in our community have a safe, happy future;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ELECTED OFFICIAL NAME, Title and jurisdiction, do hereby proclaim April 2021 as NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH in CITY or COUNTY/IES and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.

**Signed**

**----------------------------------------------------**

**Name**

**----------------------------------------------------**

**Title**