

The County of Centre

PROCLAMATION

NUMBER 41 OF 2023

WHEREAS, we recognize that it takes a cooperative, community effort to end child sexual abuse, and preventing child sexual abuse addresses a root cause of social problems including violent crime, homelessness, teen pregnancy, health problems, and substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, statistics show that at least one in ten children are sexually abused before their 18th birthday; and

WHEREAS, 90% of abused children are abused by someone that they and their caregivers know and trust; and

WHEREAS, eliminating or reducing isolated, one-on-one situations and screening those who care for children in youth serving settings decreases the risk of child sexual abuse; and

WHEREAS, talking openly about child sexual abuse with children and adults breaks down barriers, reduces stigma, and protects children; and

WHEREAS, learning to recognize and react responsibly to signs, disclosures, and suspicions of sexual abuse can protect children from further harm; and

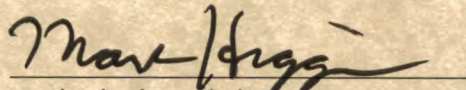
WHEREAS, training adults in evidence-informed prevention programs such as Stewards of Children® by Darkness to Light has been proven to increase knowledge, improve attitudes, and positively change child protective behaviors;

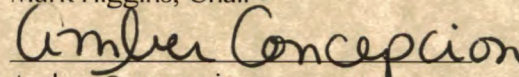
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Centre County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim **October 2023** as “**Centre County Protects Kids Month**” and encourages adult citizens to participate in awareness training to learn more about their role in protecting children from child abuse.

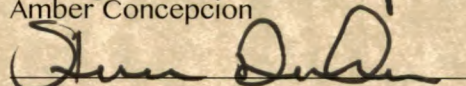
ADOPTED this 26th day of September 2023.



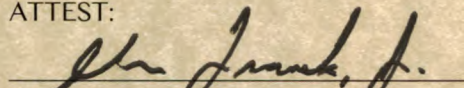
CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Mark Higgins, Chair


Amber Concepcion


Steven G. Dershem

ATTEST:


John Franek Jr, Administrator