



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Shaken Baby Syndrome and other forms of abusive head trauma occur when a caregiver loses control, usually due to a crying child, and shakes or impacts the head of a baby or young child; and
WHEREAS: The leading cause of death of abused children nationwide is shaken baby syndrome and other forms of abusive head trauma; and
WHEREAS: According to the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome, an estimated 1,200 - 1,400 children are diagnosed with Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma in the United States every year, and medical experts believe thousands of additional cases are misdiagnosed or undetected; and
WHEREAS: According to Minnesota's Child Welfare Report 2009, 43 percent of all children in reports of maltreatment were age 5 years or younger; and
WHEREAS: Shaken Baby Syndrome often causes permanent, irreparable brain damage or death to an infant, which includes loss of vision and hearing, paralysis, seizures, and learning disabilities, and may result in more than a million dollars in medical and rehabilitation costs for the care of a single disabled child during the first few years of life; and
WHEREAS: It appears that substantial medical evidence indicates that even mild trauma to the brain caused by abusive head trauma, such as Shaken Baby Syndrome, is likely to cause learning and behavioral disabilities in children and substantially increase the risk of future substance abuse; and
WHEREAS: Recent reports indicate that the number of child abuse cases has increased in Minnesota and across the nation, as economic hardship increases stress on parents and caregivers; and
WHEREAS: The most effective way to end Shaken Baby Syndrome is to educate parents and caregivers about the danger of shaking children and ways to cope with frustration and anger, and it is clear that the minimal costs of prevention programs, such as the Dias Model from Upstate New York, may avert enormous medical and disability costs and untold grief for many families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of April 15-22, 2012 as:

SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME AWARENESS WEEK

in the State of Minnesota, and, therefore, acknowledge the efforts of advocates, educators, and healthcare professionals for educating parents and caregivers about this tragic, and preventable form of child abuse.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 26th day of March.

Mark Dayton

GOVERNOR

Mark Ritchie

SECRETARY OF STATE