



# CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

*By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution of Virginia in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:*

## **ADULT ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, during fiscal year 2020, Virginia Adult Protective Services received over 37,000 reports of adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation, a 9.6 percent increase from the previous year; and

**WHEREAS**, older Virginians and Virginians with disabilities may be targets for abuse, which can occur in families and communities of all social, economic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to reduce the incidence of adult abuse in Virginia, there are a number of prevention programs that provide vital services to at risk populations including a 24-hour hotline, crisis intervention, emergency shelter, home-based and community services, public education, and legal advocacy; and

**WHEREAS**, local departments of social services used technology and creativity to reach survivors of maltreatment during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, Adult Abuse Prevention Month offers Virginians the opportunity to participate in community efforts to improve the safety and well-being of people throughout our Commonwealth, to recognize the organizations and individuals who serve them, and to remember those affected by adult abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, home to the State Adult Protective Services Division, collaborates with local departments of social services to help older Virginians and Virginians with disabilities live free of abuse, neglect, or exploitation;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ralph S. Northam, do hereby recognize May 2021 as **ADULT ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



  
Governor

  
Secretary of the Commonwealth