



WHEREAS, we all have mental health – even young children and babies; and

WHEREAS, children’s healthy social-emotional development – and adults’ capacity to support young children’s mental health – are essential to ensure the best outcomes for the health, well-being, and education of Colorado children; and

WHEREAS, 10-16% of young children in the United States, and 20% of low-income young children, experience mental health conditions, including PTSD and anxiety; and

WHEREAS, studies show that between 20% to 40% of the early childhood education workforce have experienced depression rates higher than the general U.S. population; and

WHEREAS, research shows that children exhibiting behaviors that adults find challenging are expelled from early care settings at 3 times the rate of K-12 students, which can delay positive social-emotional development, disrupt family stability, and prevent children from being ready to start school; and

WHEREAS, safe, stable and nurturing relationships and environments build a foundation for lifelong growth and development. Research shows that children who attend quality early childhood programs that promote their social-emotional development are more likely to graduate from high school and enter college and less likely to repeat grades or become involved in the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado has made significant investments and is dedicated to the mental health and well-being of our young children and the important adults in their lives. Our state agencies and a network of organizations provide diverse services and programs that ensure continuous, long-term support; and

WHEREAS, during Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week – the second week of Mental Health Awareness Month – we recognize the tremendous strides we have made and maintain a steadfast commitment to provide the mental health system that our children deserve: one that is equitable and accessible, focused on prevention and early intervention, empowers families and communities, and is free of stigma;

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim the period of time between May 5 and May 11, 2024, as

CHILDREN’S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this fifth day of May, 2024



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis
Governor