

**REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HOLLY J. MITCHELL  
AND JANICE HAHN**

April 18, 2023

**Proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month**

Every year, the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) joins counties and states across the nation in proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. In celebrating Child Abuse Prevention Month in the County, the Board joins the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), ICAN Associates, the Department of Children and Family Services, and other County and community agencies to promote the prevention of child abuse and neglect and bring hope and inspiration to children and families.

Nothing is more important than the safety and well-being of our children, and nothing is more tragic than the loss of a young life.

Today, we join ICAN in supporting critical efforts that can save the lives of children. These efforts address prevention of physical abuse and emotional trauma from over-discipline, and prevention of tragic and preventable infant suffocation deaths from unsafe sleeping.

In declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, ICAN Associates administered its annual Child Abuse Prevention Month Children’s Poster Art contest. Today, we recognize the inspiration and talent of the children who are finalists and winners of the

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**MOTION**

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contest. Hundreds of children across the County participated in the contest, which allowed them an opportunity to express their ideas and concerns regarding child abuse and neglect and to develop inspiring artwork depicting their ideas for keeping children safe.

ICAN's child death review data demonstrates the sad fact that most children who die from child abuse are under 3 years of age, and the leading cause is physical trauma. To prevent physical harm to children, ICAN promotes the continued support of No Hit-Zones throughout the County. No-Hit Zones are environments where hitting is discouraged, providing a safe, secure and supportive environment for children and families. In addition, No-Hit Zones address the negative message that hitting is an acceptable way to express anger by providing alternative positive, non-violent methods to address behavior.

In addition, ICAN findings reveal an alarming and very preventable reality; the highest number of child deaths recorded by ICAN are infants who die from unsafe sleeping environments. These preventable fatalities have included caregivers who believed that sleeping with their babies would keep them safe, or that blankets and toys in their cribs would keep them warm and happy. In some tragic cases, parents had no separate sleep place for their infants.

**↓ WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1. Proclaim April 2023 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" throughout the County of Los Angeles (County) and recognize the professionals and volunteers who work to promote the safety, joy, and well-being of children and families
2. Request Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), First5LA and Chief Executive Office (CEO) Communications to work together to increase public awareness of the ICAN Safe Sleep Campaign which promotes safe sleeping practices by all infant caregivers. These efforts may include, public service announcements, social media messaging, distribution of posters and brochures on the importance of infant safe sleep, and outreach to hospitals, clinics, and providers of pre-and post-natal care.

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3. Direct the Director of the Department of Health Services to report back to the Board in writing in 90 days on assessing the feasibility of providing a crib and sleep sack for every child born in a County facility who does not have a safe sleep environment at home. The report back should include any potential funding sources to assist with providing the crib and sleep sack.
4. Renew the declaration of the County as a No-Hit Zone in recognition of the vital need to prevent the devastating physical and emotional impact of hitting. In accordance with the declaration, all County departments and contracted agencies shall continue to post No-Hit posters and disseminate brochures and information about the negative effects of hitting to clients and families.
5. Direct the CEO through the Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch to support Assembly Bill 253 (Maienschein), which would fill gaps in the reporting of child deaths across California by requiring the California Department of Justice to submit an annual budget sufficient to fund the State Child Review Council and to fund County child death review teams.
6. Commend ICAN Associates for 40 years of sponsoring the Child Abuse Prevention Children's Poster Art contest and recognize the student finalists and winners of the 2023 Poster Art Contest for their talent and depth of concern around the safety and well-being of children.

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(KD/ME)