

Proclamation
Child Welfare Professionals Appreciation Week
June 6 - 10, 2022

WHEREAS, every day in Pennsylvania, thousands of children are at risk of child abuse and neglect or have been removed from their homes due to such abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania recognizes the risks and the need to protect the children in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the challenging task of investigating child abuse, providing services to families, assessing safety, and providing services to ensure that Pennsylvania's children are provided with nurturance, family connections, support as they transition into adulthood, and services that allow a child to remain safely in their home or return home as expeditiously as possible falls to the child welfare professionals of the Pennsylvania child welfare system; and

WHEREAS, the work of child welfare professionals may require them to enter into situations in which their personal safety may be put at risk, such as the COVID pandemic, throughout which caseworkers continued to conduct investigations and work with families in their homes, at great risk to their own health; and

WHEREAS, child welfare professionals work in difficult and emotional situations with children who have been victimized by physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and other forms of maltreatment; and

WHEREAS, child welfare professionals must develop great skill in working with families who are in crisis situations, struggling with mental health challenges, suffering from drug and alcohol afflictions, poverty, and other difficult issues; and

WHEREAS, child welfare professionals must develop substantial knowledge and skills surrounding the rights of families, the laws surrounding child welfare, and the legal processes governing the system; and

WHEREAS, child welfare professionals selflessly undertake the endeavor to protect Pennsylvania's children, often with low pay, long hours, tremendous demands, little appreciation, great criticism, and with dramatic impacts to their personal life; and

WHEREAS, every year, child welfare professionals are injured or killed in their pursuit to protect children across the United States; and

WHEREAS, the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic has created substantial challenges in the

recruitment and retention of staff of child welfare agencies arose while the workload has not decreased; and

WHEREAS, innumerable injuries and deaths of children have been averted due to the efforts of child welfare professionals; therefore, in special recognition of the efforts of the Child Welfare Professionals serving the children of Pennsylvania, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim June 6-10, 2022 as CHILD WELFARE PROFESSIONAL APPRECIATION WEEK in Pennsylvania.