

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 31, 1999 LR 59

resolution proclaiming the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Our children, as we're all aware, are our greatest treasure and we certainly must do all we can to protect them. This is especially relevant today because those of us who went to the breakfast this morning heard some startling statistics and also listened to some very moving testimony by a young gentleman who had suffered child abuse. According to the 1998 Kids Count Report Nebraska, there were 8,140 cases of child abuse and negligence reported by the Department of Health and Human Services in 1997 alone. The implications of abuse and neglect range from social incompetence and smaller brain development, to an increased likelihood of arrest as a juvenile or adult. LR 59, the month of April has been proclaimed as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Nebraska, and I call on all citizens across the state to join with the members of the Legislature in confronting this issue. As I have indicated, the number of children who are abused and neglected has escalated to alarming proportions and really must be addressed by the entire state. Please join me today and wear the blue ribbon that is currently being distributed and show your friends and community that you are joining the effort to prevent child abuse and neglect. If you would also like a large blue ribbon to put on your door, we have those available. Please ask a member of your staff to stop by our office. Displaying the blue ribbon helps awareness, child abuse awareness, and learning more about preventing child abuse and that alone will help make a difference, because it should not hurt to be a child. Thank you very much.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Peterson. There are no lights on. Did you wish to say anything further on...

SENATOR C. PETERSON: No, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Closing is waived. The question before the body is the adoption of LR 59. Those in favor please vote aye, those opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 38 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the LR 59.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you. LR 59 is adopted. Moving on to