

State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Center for Missing Persons receives more than 10,000 reports of missing children each year, with 98 percent of the children returning home safely; last year, in the ten cases in which the center activated the AMBER Alert for children believed to be either abducted by a stranger or in danger of injury or death, each child was safely recovered; and

WHEREAS, time is critical when a child goes missing, and the child's family needs to immediately file a missing person report with local law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, families can prevent child abductions by knowing where their children play and with whom, and by talking with them about safety at home, school, on the internet, and on social media sites; child sex predators can target children through community activities, churches, schools, or on numerous social media sites; and

WHEREAS, the anonymity of social media makes it easier for sexual predators to reach children of all ages and education levels; therefore, parents should not hesitate to ask their children about the people they communicate with online; examine their phones, tablets, and computers; know what applications they are using; and have their passwords; and

WHEREAS, last year, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children sent the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) Computer Crimes Unit more than 2,000 cyber tips which helped agents uncover tens of thousands of illicit photographs and videos of child pornography being traded on line in North Carolina; and

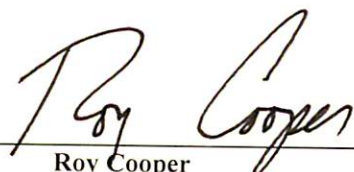
WHEREAS, per the National Human Trafficking Hotline, North Carolina is among the top 10 states for sex trafficking which includes child victims; and

WHEREAS, numerous state agencies are investigating, arresting, or incarcerating sex offenders, or working to heal young victims' trauma; the SBI, the State Highway Patrol, the Center for Missing Persons, the Governor's Crime Commission, Victim Services, Adult Correction, and the Department of Health and Human Services are among the state agencies working to protect and care for children; and

WHEREAS, each year the North Carolina Center for Missing Persons joins the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in observing National Missing Children's Day;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 25, 2017, as "MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.




Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this seventeenth day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.