

**State of Vermont  
Executive Department  
A Proclamation**

**WHEREAS,** nationally, there are over 60,000 victims of child physical abuse each year including 660 in Vermont in 2023 making child physical abuse a serious public health problem; and

**WHEREAS,** children under age 4 are at a higher risk of serious physical injury or death as a result of child abuse; and

**WHEREAS,** recognizing the earliest signs of physical abuse may prevent tragic outcomes; and

**WHEREAS,** bruising is the most common and most visible sign of physical abuse; and

**WHEREAS,** the bruising clinical decision rule known as TEN-4-FACEsp can help screen children at risk for abuse by identifying bruising characteristics that have been demonstrated to determine abusive from accidental injuries; and

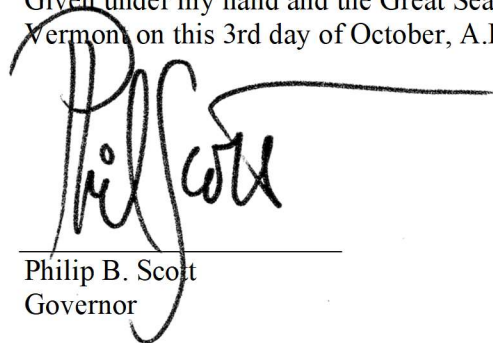
**WHEREAS,** the elements of the TEN-4FACEp acronym stand for bruising to the torso, ears, neck, frenulum, angle of the jaw, cheeks, eyelids or subconjunctivae, the "4" represents infants 4 months and younger with any bruise, anywhere, and "p" represents the presence of patterned bruising; and

**WHEREAS,** the majority of child physical abuse victims are younger than four years of age, a vulnerable population whose safety and well-being relies on adults to intervene and protect.

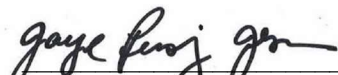
**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim the 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025 as

**TEN-4 DAY**  
in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of  
Vermont on this 3rd day of October, A.D. 2025.

  
Philip B. Scott  
Governor



  
Jaye Pershing Johnson

Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs