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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lt. Governor Kinder Recognizes May as National Foster Care Month

JEFFERSON CITY – Lt. Governor Peter Kinder today honored Missouri’s foster care households while recognizing the month of May as National Foster Care Month.

"Thousands of families across our state have dedicated their lives to helping others," Lt. Governor Kinder said. "Missouri’s foster families are dedicated to protecting and nurturing children from various backgrounds. They are not only caretakers, but friends, teachers and parents."

There are nearly 10,000 children in Missouri's foster care system. Missouri has nearly 3,000 licensed foster families.

In 2004, Lt Governor Kinder, the leader of the Missouri State Senate, helped pass into law the Dominic James Memorial Foster Care Reform Act. Since that time, Missouri has increased standards for background checks for all foster parents and foster family members over the age of 17. The state has also made tremendous progress in expediting child welfare court hearings.

"Our ultimate goal remains in providing the safest, most inclusive foster care system in America," said Lt. Governor Kinder. "We work towards a system that is built not only around protocol and procedure, but more importantly around families."

Missourians interested in becoming a foster parent can call the state’s Foster Adoptline at 1-800-554-2222.

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