



**RON DESANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

**SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH**

**WHEREAS, suicide can be prevented by learning and sharing the warning signs; promoting resiliency; decreasing the stigma associated with seeking behavioral health resources; and sharing available resources; and**

**WHEREAS, for every suicide death, an estimated 135 people are affected, making suicide a public health issue that devastates individuals, families, workplaces, and communities; and**

**WHEREAS, First Lady Casey DeSantis has spearheaded suicide prevention efforts through resiliency education initiatives, which educate and empower Florida's youth and encourage them to persevere through life's challenges; and**

**WHEREAS, data shows that Florida has seen a more than 6% decrease in the number of Floridians dying by suicide since 2018; and**

**WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Children and Families and their partners are committed to working with other state agencies, school districts, first responders, health providers, community partners, and grassroots advocates to reach identified goals and advance specific action items to reduce suicide through evidence-based and best-practice programs; and**

**WHEREAS, the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council is dedicated to working in partnership to successfully implement the 2020-2023 Florida Suicide Prevention Interagency Action Plan and is collaborating to develop Florida's next Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan starting in 2024; and**

**WHEREAS, First Lady DeSantis and Attorney General Ashley Moody have joined the fight against devastating opioid misuse and overdose with a statewide campaign and public messaging advisory regarding the dangers of fentanyl; and**

**WHEREAS, the Department of Children and Families and its partner agencies are collaborating to share resources on substance abuse and mental wellbeing to help meet the needs of Florida's communities.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing September 2023 as *Suicide Prevention Month*.**



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of September, in the year two thousand twenty-three.**

  
Governor