



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, Florida saw an estimated 3.5 percent decrease in lives lost to suicide from 2019 to 2020, a testament to prevention efforts statewide and the increased availability of mental health and crisis resources; and

WHEREAS, suicide is preventable and everyone can help prevent suicide by learning the warning signs, promoting resiliency, and committing to reducing the stigma associated with accessing mental health resources; and

WHEREAS, for every suicide death, an estimated 135 people are affected; and

WHEREAS, First Lady Casey DeSantis has continued to leverage private and public partnerships to strengthen mental health resources and suicide prevention efforts for all Floridians through her Hope for Healing initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet (FCYC), chaired by First Lady Casey DeSantis, published its 2020 Annual Report, which highlights the impact of accessible resources and trusted adult mentors in preventing youth suicide; and

WHEREAS, youth suicide prevention remains a top priority of the FCYC, as they begin partnerships with state and local agencies to develop toolkits and resources that can be used to deal with negative stigmas around mental health communication; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Governor's Challenge Team is working to execute a statewide suicide prevention plan to specifically address suicide prevention among military service members, veterans, and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Children and Families is committed to working with other state agencies, Managing Entities, school districts, first responders, health providers, community partners, and advocates to reduce suicide through programs on awareness, prevention, intervention, and caring follow-up; and

WHEREAS, the Departments of Children and Families, Health, Elder Affairs, Juvenile Justice, Education, Law Enforcement, and Veterans' Affairs; the Agencies for Persons with Disabilities and Health Care Administration; and the Guardian ad Litem Program are dedicated to working in partnership to successfully implement the 2020-2023 Florida Suicide Prevention Interagency Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida encourages Floridians in need to turn to the Suicide Prevention Lifeline by calling 1-800-273-8255; their local 2-1-1 providers, which offers confidential conversations to access help in their communities; and the Crisis Text Line, available by texting HOME to 741741; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing September 2021, 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 1st day of September, in the year two thousand twenty-one.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron DeSantis".

Governor