



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

WHEREAS, suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the United States and the 3rd leading cause of death for individuals between the ages of 15 and 24; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, one person dies by suicide every 16 minutes; and

WHEREAS, an average of six Floridians a day lose their lives to suicide; and

WHEREAS, the devastation of suicide has consumed families and communities statewide and remains a serious public health problem; and

WHEREAS, more teenagers and young adults die from suicide than from cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia, influenza, and chronic lung disease combined; and

WHEREAS, parental influence and community education and involvement are recognized as the most crucial factors in preventing suicide; and

WHEREAS, surveys indicate children and adults educated on the warning signs of depression and suicidal ideation will be more likely to detect and prevent such an act; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness in the community about the effect of mental illness and the importance of education and that treatment can save lives; and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental illness and suicide works against suicide prevention by discouraging persons at risk from seeking life-saving help;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing September 7 – 13, 2008 as *Florida Suicide Prevention Week*.



**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
Capitol, this 27th day of
August, in the year two
thousand eight.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Charlie Crist".

Governor