



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, addressing the mental health needs of Florida's families is essential to promote and maintain a healthier, happier community, especially given the current public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, because of COVID-19, children and families are spending more time at home, away from their friends, which can be mentally and emotionally taxing; and

WHEREAS, during this time of social distancing and self-isolation, children are more vulnerable to abuse and neglect, which can drastically impact their mental health as well; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has led to unfamiliar and stressful circumstances, such as homeschooling and loss of income, which can lead to frustration among both children and adults; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to encourage families experiencing mental health and substance abuse challenges to seek help and have honest conversations about their experiences; and

WHEREAS, expanding access to an integrated system of services like telehealth for people of all ages, backgrounds and walks of life is a necessity; and

WHEREAS, First Lady Casey DeSantis' *Hope for Healing Florida* initiative, developed in coordination with the Florida Department of Children and Families, provides a platform of mental health resources; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet, under the direction of First Lady Casey DeSantis, has made mental health and substance abuse challenges, including youth suicide prevention, a priority in Florida; and

WHEREAS, Children's Mental Health Awareness Week is an opportunity for all Floridians to come together to break the stigma associated with mental health and to promote our children's overall well-being.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing May 3-9, 2020, as *Children's Mental Health Awareness Week in Florida*.



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 3rd day of May, in the year two thousand twenty.


Governor