



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, suicide is a public health challenge that causes immeasurable pain to individuals, families, and communities across our state and country; and

WHEREAS, 3,427 Floridians died by suicide in 2019, making suicide the eighth leading cause of death for all Floridians, and many others struggle with thoughts of suicide or make one or more suicide attempts; and

WHEREAS, Florida saw a 3.5 percent decrease in lives lost to suicide from 2018 to 2019; however, there remains a concerning upward drift of suicide deaths over the past decade, especially now due to the projected mental health impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic in Florida; and

WHEREAS, First Lady Casey DeSantis and the Florida Department of Children and Families are committed to working with state agencies, Florida managing entities, school districts, law enforcement agencies, first responders, health care providers, community partners, and advocates to identify goals and specific action items to reduce suicide through evidence-based and best-practice programs in the awareness, education, prevention, and intervention of suicide; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Children and Families is an active member of the Florida Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council dedicated to the implementation of a comprehensive Florida Suicide Prevention Interagency Action Plan coordinating suicide prevention efforts across our state; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Florida legislators expanded the Florida Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council to include the First Responders Suicide Deterrence Task Force, focused on addressing prevention and intervention efforts among high-risk first responders; and

WHEREAS, First Lady Casey DeSantis directed the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet in the creation of the Strategy Workgroup and the Technology Workgroup tasked to research evidence-based programs to decrease youth suicide; and

WHEREAS, enhancing awareness, increasing effective intervention services, and expanding support are essential to preventing further deaths by suicide.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing September 2020, 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.



Governor