



# Proclamation

## By the Governor of Alabama

*WHEREAS, September is known around the United States as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and is intended to help promote awareness surrounding the suicide prevention resources available to us and our community; and*

*WHEREAS, suicide is a national, public health challenge that causes immeasurable pain among individuals, families and communities across the country; and*

*WHEREAS, suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States, and Alabama has shown a pattern of higher rates than the U.S. national average since 1990; and*

*WHEREAS, Alabama has a proud tradition of military service, and Alabama servicemembers, veterans and their families are at an even higher risk for suicide; and*

*WHEREAS, Alabama's Challenge for Preventing Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans and their Families (SMVF) is an interagency initiative led by the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, Alabama Department of Mental Health, Alabama Department of Public Health and other organizations to develop and implement state-wide suicide prevention best practices; and*

*WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Mental Health promotes suicide prevention information and crisis care services to lower the suicide rate, reduce stigma and bring awareness to suicide and mental health; and*

*WHEREAS, Alabama businesses are in the unique position to leverage the learnings from our employees, including Servicemembers and Veterans, to encourage a national discussion on mental health and wellbeing in the workplace, and collaborate on meaningful solutions;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim September 2022, as*

# *Suicide Prevention Month*

*in the state of Alabama.*



*Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of September 2022.*

*Kay Ivey*

*Kay Ivey, Governor*