



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, September is known as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Suicide is a public health challenge that causes immeasurable pain among individuals, families and communities across the country; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the eleventh leading cause of death in the United States, and 48,183 Americans died by suicide in 2021. Alabama has shown a pattern of higher rates than the U.S. national average since 1990, with 821 Alabamians dying by suicide in 2021. Anyone can experience a suicidal crisis regardless of age, gender, race, orientation, income level, religion or background; and

WHEREAS, Alabama has a proud tradition of military service, and Alabama service members, veterans and their families are at a higher risk for suicide. Alabama's Challenge for Preventing Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans and their Families (SMVVF) is an interagency initiative led by the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, Mental Health, Public Health and other organizations to develop and implement statewide suicide prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, to lessen stigma, decrease the suicide rate and raise awareness of resources and available 24/7 crisis care, the Alabama Department of Mental Health promotes resources and information widely through partners and providers; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Mental Health and partners will continue to promote and make accessible resources for assistance;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim September 2023, as

Suicide Prevention Awareness 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 11th day of September 2023.

Kay Ivey

Kay Ivey, Governor