



# *Proclamation*

## *By the Governor of Alabama*

*WHEREAS, positive mental health is a key component in a child's development and Children's Mental Health Week provides the opportunity to foster acceptance, resilience and success, while celebrating the accomplishments of children and families experiencing mental illness or its impacts; and*

*WHEREAS, in 2024, the Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH) was grateful to have served over 32,000 children with mental health prevention and treatment services in the state; and*

*WHEREAS, one in five children in the nation has a diagnosable mental, emotional or behavioral disorder. Research has shown early identification and appropriate treatment of mental health disorders among children and adolescents provides better opportunities to lead full and productive lives; and*

*WHEREAS, the rise of smartphones and social media among children and adolescents, has contributed to increased mental health issues like anxiety and depression. To prevent harm and increase positive mental health, along with the ADMH, Alabama State Department of Education and partners have advocated for limitations on cell phone use in schools and more awareness and training for parents; and*

*WHEREAS, ADMH and Community Mental Health Centers offer direct care and partner with school districts to provide School-Based Mental Health Care to over 11,000 students in the school setting in approximately 116 school districts; and*

*WHEREAS, the Alabama State Department of Education partners with ADMH to provide certification, training and support to Mental Health Service Coordinators in all public school districts. Coordinators support mental health services with a focus on resources for mental health awareness, prevention and early intervention; and*

*WHEREAS, Alabama's most important asset is its children. The welfare of our children is paramount to Alabama's future. Children's Mental Health Awareness Week is an opportunity to change hearts, minds and attitudes regarding mental health;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim May 4 through May 10, 2025 as*

# *Children's Mental Health Awareness Week*

*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 8<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025.*

*Kay Ivey*  
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Kay Ivey, Governor