



# Proclamation

## By the Governor of Alabama

*WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Mental Health and the State of Alabama encourages all citizens to participate and celebrate the children who are affected by mental illness and the efforts of all who work to decrease stigma and discrimination based on misinformation. This stigma often discourages parents and affected children from seeking appropriate treatment; and*

*WHEREAS, one of 10 children have mental health problems severe enough to impair their functioning at home, in school or in the community. The total number of children receiving public mental health treatment in the state of Alabama is approximately 31,000; and*

*WHEREAS, mental illnesses are more common and often yield more successful treatment outcomes than cancer, heart disease and juvenile diabetes. Mental health is essential to overall health and well-being; and*

*WHEREAS, scientific research continues to make tremendous breakthroughs in the understanding of mental illnesses, helping persons experience recovery and resume full and productive lives; and*

*WHEREAS, children and youth with mental illnesses and their families deserve access to services and supports that are family driven, youth guided and culturally appropriate; and*

*WHEREAS, values of acceptance, dignity and social inclusion should be promoted throughout all communities for children, youth and families. Our state's most important asset is its children, and their health and welfare are paramount to Alabama's future; and*

*WHEREAS, Alabama will be joining National Children's Mental Health Week with SAMHSA and National Federation of Families' promotional efforts by encouraging Alabamians to wear green ribbons and hosting events statewide throughout the week; and*

*WHEREAS, the national theme this year is "Partnering for Help and Hope Following Trauma." The Alabama Department of Mental Health will host a poster contest and honor those children who submit their art;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim May 7-13, 2018, 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 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 2018.*

*Kay Ivey*  
Kay Ivey, Governor