



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, September is recognized across the nation as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. The Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH) and its partners commemorate this month, with September 8th observed globally as 988 Day; and

WHEREAS, suicide is a profound public health crisis that leaves a lasting impact on communities, claiming lives across every age, race, background and walk of life. In 2024 alone, Alabama lost 837 lives to suicide, including 150 Alabama veterans. Nationally, suicide claimed 48,824 lives in 2024; and

WHEREAS, research has demonstrated a strong and interconnected relationship between substance use disorders, mental health conditions and suicide. Increasing suicide protective factors such as effective behavioral health care, connectedness to family, community and social institutions, self-esteem and a sense of purpose in life. Cultural, religious or personal beliefs that discourage suicide can lower the risk of suicide in all ages; and

WHEREAS, decreasing access to lethal means – such as firearms, medications and other potentially deadly items – during times of crisis is an effective strategy for reducing suicide risk. Safe storage practices can create critical moments of pause that save lives and are a proven component of comprehensive suicide prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, since July 2022, the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline received 179,116 contacts from Alabamians seeking help. In addition, suicide prevention is aided through training such as Mental Health First Aid and Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR); and

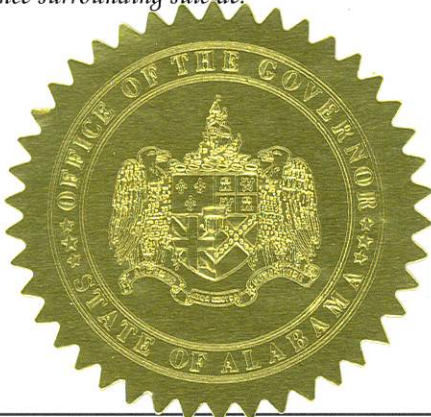
WHEREAS, the Alabama Crisis System of Care also extends directly into communities through mobile crisis teams and crisis centers, serving 5,009 individuals who were in a suicidal crisis, while successfully diverting individuals from jails and hospital emergency rooms; and

WHEREAS, Alabama is committed to spreading awareness, promoting prevention and expanding access to life-saving resources. Together with providers, partners and state agencies, Alabama works to ensure every citizen knows they are not alone:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim September 2026, as

Suicide Prevention Month

in the state of Alabama. I urge all Alabamians to educate themselves, reach out to others and help break the silence surrounding suicide.



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 10th day of September 2026.

Kay Ivey
Kay Ivey, Governor