



**RON DESANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

***SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH***

**WHEREAS, suicide can be prevented by learning and sharing the warning signs; promoting resiliency; decreasing the stigma associated with seeking behavioral health resources; and sharing available resources; and**

**WHEREAS, for every suicide death, an estimated 135 people are affected, making suicide a public health issue that devastates individuals, families, workplaces, and communities; and**

**WHEREAS, the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council is focused on suicide prevention efforts including targeted populations, elders, health care professionals, middle aged men, pregnant women, veterans, victims of domestic violence, and youth; and**

**WHEREAS, First Lady Casey DeSantis has contributed significantly to suicide prevention through her commitment to enhancing the state's prevention efforts and leading the charge on reframing "mental health" to "resilience" to empower Florida's youth to persevere through life's challenges; and**

**WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Children and Families and their partners are committed to working with other state agencies, school districts, first responders, health providers, community partners, and grassroots advocates to reach identified goals and advance specific action items to reduce suicide through evidence-based and best-practice programs focused on awareness, prevention, intervention, treatment, and caring follow-up and support of suicide-related thoughts and behaviors; and**

**WHEREAS, the Departments of Children and Families, Health, Elder Affairs, Juvenile Justice, Education, Law Enforcement, and Veterans' Affairs; the Agencies for Persons with Disabilities and Health Care Administration; and the Guardian ad Litem Program are dedicated to working in partnership to successfully implement the 2020-2023 Florida Suicide Prevention Interagency Action Plan, and are collaborating to develop Florida's next Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan starting in 2024; and**

**WHEREAS, given the relationship between opioid abuse and suicide deaths, Florida's State Opioid Response grant within the Department of Children and Families hosts [isavefl.com](http://isavefl.com), a resource for individuals at risk of an opioid overdose with information about where to access the lifesaving medication Naloxone in Florida by county; and**

**WHEREAS, First Lady DeSantis has joined the fight against devastating opioid misuse and overdose with a statewide campaign and public messaging advisory regarding the dangers of fentanyl; and**

**WHEREAS, the Department of Children and Families and its partner agencies are collaborating to share widely resources on substance abuse and mental wellbeing to help meet the needs of Florida's communities.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing September 2022, as *Suicide Prevention Month*.**



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of September, in the year two thousand twenty-two.**

  
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Governor