



**RON DESANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

**FLORIDA SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK**

**WHEREAS, Florida is committed to preventing suicide and empowering its residents to reach their full potential and lead healthy lives; and**

**WHEREAS, suicide is a public health issue that significantly impacts family members, friends, coworkers, schools, communities, and our veterans; and**

**WHEREAS, Florida lost 3,552 lives to suicide in 2018, making suicide the second leading cause of death among people ages 25-34, and the eighth leading cause of death for all Floridians; and**

**WHEREAS, education, treatment, support resources, and follow-up care are essential in preventing further loss of life to suicide; and**

**WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Children and Families works with other state agencies, as well as Florida Managing Entities, Florida School Districts and community partners to reduce suicide through education, prevention, intervention and best-practice programs; and**

**WHEREAS, the Florida Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council has developed a comprehensive Florida Suicide Prevention Plan to coordinate and implement suicide prevention efforts throughout our great state; and**

**WHEREAS, Florida School Districts collaborated with the Florida Department of Education to develop mental health plans, and have trained more than 20,000 instructors and participants in Youth Mental Health First Aid since July 2018 to increase awareness and prevent suicide among our youth; and**

**WHEREAS, through her "Hope for Healing Florida" program, First Lady Casey DeSantis has helped suicide prevention efforts by prioritizing the mental health of all Floridians and leveraging the resources of our state agencies and private partners to help youth and families avert drug addiction; and**

**WHEREAS, Florida is working to connect veterans who may be facing an emotional or mental health crisis with lifesaving care through a new multi-year partnership involving the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, Florida Department of Children and Families, and Crisis Center of Tampa Bay.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing September 8-14, 2019, as *Florida Suicide Prevention Week*.**



**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 8th day of September, in the year two thousand nineteen.**

  
Governor