



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, suicide is a tremendous form of suffering and one of the most disruptive and tragic events a family and a community can experience, with more than 1,200 lives lost in Tennessee each year and an estimated 25 attempted suicides for each suicide death; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the twelfth leading cause of death in Tennessee, the third leading cause of death among youth and young adults ages of 10 to 24 as well as the fifth leading cause of death of adults ages 35-44 and the sixth leading cause of death for adults ages 45-54; and

WHEREAS, understanding the risk for human self-destruction can be reduced through awareness, education and treatment; and

WHEREAS, suicide prevention has been declared a state priority by Governor Bill Lee and the Tennessee Legislature; and

WHEREAS, 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the United States; and

WHEREAS, a Suicide Prevention Network Advisory Council has been appointed to coordinate the implementation of the Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network is a grassroots collaboration of Tennesseans and organizations working to eliminate the stigma of suicide, educate the community about the warning signs of suicide, and ultimately reduce the rate of suicide in our state; and

WHEREAS, everyone can play a role in suicide prevention by learning and sharing the risk and warning signs, decreasing the stigma as a means to promote help-seeking, and by talking about suicide using safe-messaging, and sharing the available resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee do hereby proclaim September 2024 as

Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this seventh day of August 2024.

Bill Lee

Governor

Ju Vargitt

Secretary of State