

STATE OF KANSAS



PROCLAMATION  
BY THE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS Suicide Prevention in Kansas is about hope, resilience, and recovery; and

WHEREAS, September 10th is World Suicide Prevention Day and September 5-11th is National Suicide Prevention Week; and

WHEREAS, these observances are united in raising awareness that prevention is possible, treatment is effective, and people do recover; and

WHEREAS, Kansas residents should have access to high quality prevention, support, rehabilitation, and treatment services that lead to recovery; and

WHEREAS, in Kansas, suicide has consistently been in the top 10 leading causes of death among all ages and the 2nd leading cause of death following unintentional injuries for those age 15-34 years; and

WHEREAS, Service Members, Veterans and their Families (SMVF) have faithfully and honorably served our state and nation and tragically, from 2015 to 2017, 67 per 100,000 Veterans died by suicide, which was 3.4 times the suicide rate of non-veterans and significantly higher than the national suicide rate and,

WHEREAS, the State of Kansas Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide team has made it a statewide collaborative effort to recognize collective ownership in reducing and eliminating Kansas SMVF suicide; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, the Office of Kansas Attorney General Victim Services Divisions Kansas Youth Suicide Prevention Coordinator, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and stakeholders have formed a Steering Committee to lead efforts in the creation of the statewide Kansas Suicide Prevention Coalition which will bring together communities across Kansas in unified work to prevent suicide; and

WHEREAS, the Prevention Subcommittee of the Governor's Behavioral Health Services Planning Council is dedicated to reducing the frequency of suicide attempts, deaths, and the related pain for those affected by suicide deaths through research projects, educational programs, and best practices to support awareness, prevention, and postvention;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAURA KELLY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2021 as

Suicide Prevention Month

in Kansas and I urge all citizens to join in this observation.

DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka  
under the Great Seal of  
the State this 17<sup>th</sup> day of  
September, A.D. 2021



BY THE GOVERNOR:

*Laura Kelly*

*Seamus*

Secretary of State

*Alisa*

Assistant Secretary of State