



State of Missouri
Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, suicide is a critical public health issue, impacting individuals, families, friends, and communities; and

WHEREAS, at least 1,100 Missourians died by suicide in 2023, an average of one person every eight hours. Suicide ranks as the second leading cause of death among individuals from 10 to 44, and suicide rates have increased by 29% since 2012, with Missouri ranked 15th highest in suicide rates in the nation; and

WHEREAS, suicide is preventable by starting a conversation, providing support, and directing people to the help they need. Services and resources are available in Missouri, with community behavioral health centers located across the state. Those in mental health, suicide, or substance use crisis or emotional distress can call, text, or chat the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline anytime for immediate access to a trained crisis specialist who can provide in-the-moment support and offer connection to ongoing services and resources if needed; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Mental Health encourages health and behavioral health organizations to implement the Zero Suicide framework to improve care and safety for individuals at risk, and the state of Missouri continues to find ways to help people who are struggling with thoughts of suicide, including increasing access to behavioral health crisis services such as mobile crisis response, where specialists provide community-based crisis support, and behavioral health crisis centers where individuals can go for support in a trauma-informed and therapeutic space; and

WHEREAS, Missouri is a leader in national 988 implementation efforts, with 75,752 calls, texts, and chats answered in 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Suicide Prevention Network (MSPN), an independent, nonpartisan group of individuals and organizations, leads and coordinates statewide suicide prevention efforts, including the development and sustainment of the State Suicide Prevention Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF), in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs, aims to further advance its suicide prevention efforts for the military community and all Missourians. Missouri has designated the 22nd day of each month as "Missouri Buddy Check 22 Day" to promote education and awareness of the problems of suicide facing military personnel; and

WHEREAS, the state of Missouri, the Department of Mental Health, and other state agencies shall continue its commitment to sharing resources, helping those in need, and promoting suicide prevention initiatives and crisis services such as 988. Every Missourian can play a role in preventing suicide by knowing the risks and warning signs of suicide, offering support to others, and spreading awareness of 988 and mental health resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim September 2024 to be

SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

in Missouri and encourage all Missourians to promote suicide prevention awareness.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 28th day of August, 2024.



Michael L. Parson
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE