



STATE OF MISSOURI
Proclamation
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness of suicide prevention, share messages of hope, and remember lives lost to suicide; and

WHEREAS, suicide is a public health concern that impacts individuals, families, and communities. Suicide rates in Missouri are higher than the national average, and the state is ranked the 18th highest in the United States for its suicide rate in 2024; and

WHEREAS, September 8 is recognized as 988 Day, a time to raise awareness of the crucial role of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline; and

WHEREAS, Missourians in crisis can call, text, chat, or videophone the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline 24/7 for free and confidential support from a trained crisis specialist who can listen, provide support, provide ways to cope, and share local resources; and

WHEREAS, the State of Missouri continues to help citizens who are struggling with thoughts of suicide through increased access to behavioral health crisis services, such as mobile crisis response, behavioral health crisis centers, and community behavioral health centers; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Governor's Challenge is a non-partisan state interagency team striving to advance suicide prevention efforts among service members, veterans, and their families, including recognizing the 22nd day of each month as "Missouri Buddy Check 22 Day" to promote education and awareness about veteran and military-connected suicide; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Suicide Prevention Network is a statewide leader in suicide prevention efforts, working to reduce suicide through collaboration, education, and community-driven action.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE KEHOE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim September 2026, to be

SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

in Missouri.

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 21st day of August 2026.



Michael Kehoe
Mike Kehoe
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Denny Hoskins
SECRETARY OF STATE