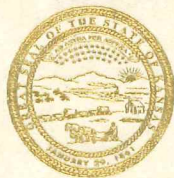


STATE OF KANSAS



PROCLAMATION
BY THE
GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, suicide prevention in Kansas is about hope, resilience, and recovery; and

WHEREAS, in Kansas, suicide has consistently been in the top 10 leading causes of death among all ages, and as of 2021, those aged 25-34 years had the highest rate of suicides; and

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

WHEREAS, on July 16, 2023, Kansas celebrated the one-year anniversary of a successful transition to the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline—the easy to remember number to reach trained crisis counselors for help with suicide, mental health, and substance use related crises with a more than 90% answer rate for call centers that have served more than 24,000 residents of Kansas; and

WHEREAS, for the first time, Kansas was awarded the Garrett Lee Smith State/Tribal Suicide Prevention Program Grant, which will help implement youth suicide prevention and early intervention strategies designed to reduce suicide deaths, behaviors, and ideation in youth and young adults aged 10-24; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of suicide prevention efforts across Kansas has been bolstered by the allocation of \$1.5 million in state funding to the Behavioral Health Services Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas Suicide Prevention Coalition continues to connect public and private partnerships with over 70 members that promote sharing resources, identifying populations most at risk, and addressing behavioral health disparities; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Laura Kelly, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim, September 2023, as

Suicide Prevention Month

in the state of 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 25th day of
August, A.D. 2023

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Laura Kelly

Scott Sells

Secretary of State

J. Blum

Assistant Secretary of State