



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY

WHEREAS, in 2009, 2,854 Floridians lost their lives to suicide at an average of 8 people per day; and

WHEREAS, the epidemic of suicide has left all families and communities statewide susceptible to its devastation and remains a serious public health problem; and

WHEREAS, undetected depression impacts school and workplace success and safety; and

WHEREAS, the education and awareness of gatekeepers such as parents and educators is recognized as one of the most crucial factors in suicide prevention and intervention; and

WHEREAS, surveys indicate children and adults informed on the warning signs of depression and suicidal ideation will be more likely to detect and prevent such an act; and

WHEREAS, increasing community awareness about the importance of screening for and treating mental illness can save lives; and

WHEREAS, the stigma attached to mental illness and suicidality must be eliminated and help-seeking behaviors must be encouraged for those at risk; and

WHEREAS, a great many suicides are preventable; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive, synergistic approach emphasizing wellness, collaboration, and effective policy is shown to save lives, increase productivity, and improve safety; and

WHEREAS, key strategies such as launching public information campaigns, specialty training for caregivers and community leaders, and community mobilization efforts are taking place to meet the goal of lowering Florida's suicide rate and improving quality of life for those who are suffering; and

WHEREAS, Suicide Prevention Day – A Day to Focus on Awareness and Education, recognizing suicide prevention efforts are crucial to deterring the tragic loss of human life.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing March 30, 2011 as ***Florida Suicide Prevention Day***.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 24th day of March, in the year, two thousand eleven.



A blue ink signature of Rick Scott, written in a cursive style.

Governor