

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the State of Arizona recognizes the profound impact of suicide on individuals, families, and communities, and is committed to promoting mental health and well-being; and  
**WHEREAS**, suicide prevention requires a collective effort that transcends societal boundaries, and every life lost to suicide represents an irreplaceable loss; and  
**WHEREAS**, the month of September 2023 is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month; and  
**WHEREAS**, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in Arizona; and  
**WHEREAS**, at least 1,599 Arizonans died by suicide in 2022; and  
**WHEREAS**, in 2022, suicide attempts accounted for nearly 30,000 emergency department visits in Arizona alone; and  
**WHEREAS**, suicidality is a public health emergency in Arizona that transcends age, race, ethnicity, religious preference, economic status, and political affiliation; and  
**WHEREAS**, several organizations, including Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Department of Education, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services, community organizations and coalitions, universities, and other stakeholders, are working to educate all of Arizona's citizens about available suicide prevention support services; and  
**WHEREAS**, every Arizonan has a role to play in preventing suicide through stigma reduction, education, awareness, and access to resources; and  
**WHEREAS**, if you or someone you know are having thoughts of self-harm or suicide, you are not alone. Free, confidential help is available 24 hours a day, in English and Spanish, through the National 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (phone number: 9-8-8) or by texting the Arizona Crisis line at 4HOPE (text number: 44673).  
**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Katie Hobbs, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim September 2023 as

## SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

and urge all citizens to join together as a community to learn to recognize the warning signs and how to respond if they suspect someone may be depressed, struggling, or thinking about suicide.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona



GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this twenty-fourth day of August in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Forty-Eighth.

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

