



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY

WHEREAS, an average of 7 Floridians a day lose their lives to suicide; and

WHEREAS, the devastation of suicide has consumed families and communities statewide and remains a serious public health problem; and

WHEREAS, parental influence and community education and involvement are recognized as the most crucial factors in preventing suicide; and

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

WHEREAS, raising awareness in the community about the effect of mental illness and the importance of education and treatment can save lives; and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental illness and suicidality works against suicide prevention by discouraging persons at risk for seeking life-saving help; and

WHEREAS, a great many suicides are preventable and an integrated approach to lowering the state's current suicide rate by one-third by 2010 is currently being implemented; and

WHEREAS, key components 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

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; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing April 22, 2009 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 Capitol, this 27th day of February, in the year two thousand nine.

Handwritten signature of Charlie Crist in blue ink.

Governor