

Gov. Crist declares April 22 Suicide Prevention Day

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Gov. Charlie Crist has declared today, April 22, as suicide prevention day.

The Office of Suicide Prevention and Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition were joined at the Capitol by advocates, survivors, grassroots organizations, other state agencies, and youth to bring suicide to the forefront as a public health issue.

“Suicide is tragically the third-leading cause of death for Florida youth,” said Lt. Governor Kottkamp in a news release.

“There is much that we can do to ensure that all Florida’s citizens have access to care and no longer have to suffer in silence. It is imperative that we improve the quality of life for Floridians by promoting a culture that restores hope, fosters help-seeking behaviors and builds resilience and connectedness among communities, families and individuals.”

In 2007, 2,570 Floridians lost their lives to suicide at a rate of 7 people per day, according to the Florida Department of Health. Of those, 231 were between the ages of 10 and 24. Suicide is also the second leading cause of death among American college students.

To learn more about Suicide Prevention Day and other suicide prevention initiatives, please visit the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention website at

www.HelpPromoteHope.com.