



Proclamation Recognizing September as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

- WHEREAS,** every year nearly 26,000 people in the United States die by firearm suicides, an average of 704 people in Virginia die by firearms suicides and 24 are wounded by gun suicide attempts; and, during the last two decades youth suicide has reached its highest rate in more than 20 years and firearms account for more than half of all suicide deaths nationwide; and
- WHEREAS** Albemarle County joins in observing National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month by raising awareness to foster a culture of understanding and empathy and encourage community members to becoming better educated on the signs of suicide risk factors, elevate local suicide prevention resources, and de-stigmatize conversations around mental health; and
- WHEREAS,** the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline plays a helpful role in suicide prevention and mental health support by offering immediate confidential assistance 24/7 to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress; and
- WHEREAS,** Albemarle County has played an important role in suicide prevention with the Commonwealth Attorney's Office hiring a new prosecutor for emergency substantial risk orders, University of Virginia law students working with state lawmakers on legislation to protect at-risk schoolchildren and Albemarle County Public Schools launching the HELPme app and Lightspeed Alert; and,
- WHEREAS,** there are many local organizations, including Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, Students Demand Action, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Region Ten and the National Alliance on Mental Illness, dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope through research, education, policies, advocacy, and resources for those who have lost someone to suicide, who struggle with suicidal ideation, or have otherwise been affected by suicide; and.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED,** that we, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, do hereby recognize suicide as a public health problem and designates September 2025 as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

Signed this 3rd day of September 2025

Jim H. Andrews, Chair
Albemarle Board of County Supervisors