



Proclamation Recognizing September as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

- WHEREAS,** every year nearly 27,000 people in the United States die by firearm suicide, an average of 718 people in Virginia die by firearm suicide, nearly six out of every 10 gun deaths in the U.S. are suicides, and during the last two decades youth suicide has reached its highest rate; 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 become 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, The Trevor Project, and local providers play 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 by local advocates, lawmakers, and University of Virginia law students successfully pushing for Substantial Risk Order reforms, the success of the Human Services Alternative Response Team (HART), and the School Board's secure firearm storage resolution serving as a model for other localities; 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, the PLM Legacy Foundation, 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.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED,** that we, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, do hereby recognize suicide as a public health problem and designate September 2026 as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

Signed this 2nd day of September 2026

Ned L. Gallaway, Chair
Albemarle Board of County Supervisors