

Proclamation Suicide Prevention Month

WHEREAS, suicide is a serious public health crisis affecting residents of all ages in every region of Texas, claiming the lives of more than 4,376 Texans in 2023 and leaving an immeasurable impact on families, friends, and communities across our state; and

WHEREAS, Texas has experienced a 47% increase in suicide mortality rate since 1999, making suicide prevention an urgent priority for our state; and

WHEREAS, suicide has become the second leading cause of death for individuals 15-34 years old, the fifth leading cause of death for individuals 35-54 years old, and the eleventh leading cause of death across all age groups in Texas; and

WHEREAS, our young Texans face particular challenges, with 1,499 deaths by suicide from 2021-2022 for ages 10-24 in Texas, and the youth suicide age-adjusted rate for the 10-19 year-old age group at 7.36 per 100,000 in Texas during 2021, which is above the overall US rate for this group; and

WHEREAS, Texas high school students report higher percentages of having made a suicide plan (Texas 19.8%, USA 17.6%), attempting suicide (Texas 12.3%, USA 10.2%), and suicide attempts that required medical attention (Texas 3.5%, USA 2.9%) than the national average; and

WHEREAS, vulnerable populations in Texas face disproportionate risks, including youth in the foster care system who have a suicide mortality rate more than three times the rate for youth in Texas, and veterans aged 18-34 whose suicide mortality rate rose 91.6 percent between 2001 and 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Hill Country region faces significant challenges with suicide rates, with the Hill Country Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Centers' service area experiencing a 76% increase in suicide mortality rate since 1999, with consistently higher death rates than the state average and 136 people dying from suicide in this catchment area in 2023 alone; and

WHEREAS, according to research, there are approximately 135 people affected in some way by each suicide death including approximately 18 loss survivors who will experience short- or long-term bereavement from the death, meaning there would be approximately 594,760 people affected by suicide and 78,768 new loss survivors in Texas from 2023 suicides alone; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact is substantial, with each suicide death representing an estimated \$1.2 million in financial loss in lifetime medical and work loss costs; and

WHEREAS, suicide is preventable, and evidence-based interventions, including strengthening economic support, creating protective environments, improving access to mental health services, promoting healthy relationships, teaching coping skills, and identifying and supporting people at risk, can save lives; and

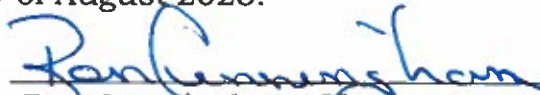
WHEREAS, providing school-based mental health services has been shown to decrease self-reported suicide attempts by 15%, demonstrating the power of early intervention and support; and

WHEREAS, the [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline provides 24/7](#) confidential crisis support for people in distress; and

WHEREAS, hope, healing, and recovery are possible, and every Texan deserves to know that their life has value and that help is available when they need it most, particularly through dedicated organizations like Texas Developmental Disabilities Centers with the mission "to help people have positive control over the life they desire and find satisfying, and are recognized and valued for their contributions to their communities" while promoting "hope, independence, community integration and recovery" through comprehensive behavioral health services;

NOW, THEREFORE, I do hereby proclaim September 2025 as National Suicide Prevention Month and call upon all citizens to recognize the importance of suicide prevention, support those who have been affected by suicide, and work together to create communities where every person feels valued, supported, and connected.

SIGNED this 25th day of August 2025.


Ron Cunningham, Llano County Judge


Peter Jones, Commissioner Pct 1


Linda Raschke, Commissioner Pct 2


Brent Richards, Commissioner Pct 3


Jerry Don Moss, Commissioner Pct 4

Attest: 
Cecilia McClintock, County Clerk