



**Proclaiming**  
**September 2024**

**National Suicide Prevention Month in Ventura County**

**Whereas**, suicide is a national and statewide public health and mental health problem which occurs among all age groups and across all socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds; and

**Whereas**, suicide is the 11<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States, and 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 to 14 and 20 to 34 in the United States; and

**Whereas**, in the United States, over 49,000 people die by suicide each year, and 100 suicides occurred in Ventura County in 2023, increasing from years prior, and each death by suicide directly impacts numerous family members, friends, and loved ones; and

**Whereas**, the Ventura County Health Care Agency (HCA) and its various departments are committed to raising awareness, providing education and training on suicide prevention, and reducing stigma; and

**Whereas**, the stigma associated with mental illness and suicidality works against suicide prevention by discouraging persons at risk for suicide from seeking life-saving help and further traumatizes survivors of suicide; and

**Whereas**, the Ventura County HCA is committed to ensuring that those in need have access to services by healthcare providers trained in best practices to reduce suicide risk and to reducing the stigma associated with using behavioral health treatment or losing a loved one to suicide; and

**Whereas**, the County of Ventura publicly places its full support behind those who work in the field on this important community issue; and

**Whereas**, we encourage all residents to take time to understand mental health through education and recognize that we need to take care of our mental health while we take care of each other, and

**Whereas**, September 1st through 30th is recognized across the United States as Suicide Prevention Month and provides the opportunity to educate our community about warning signs and how best to help those most in need.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved**, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, does hereby proclaim the month of September 2024, as National Suicide Prevention Month in Ventura County, and encourages all residents of Ventura County to learn more about suicide prevention and awareness.

**Presented on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024**

  
Matt LaVergne, Supervisor 1st District

  
Janice S. Parvin, Supervisor 4th District

  
Chair of the Board of Supervisors  
Kelly Long, Supervisor 3rd District

  
Jeff Gorrell, Supervisor 2<sup>nd</sup> District

  
Vianey Lopez, Supervisor 5th District