

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION

**RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER
AS SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, in the United States, one person dies by suicide every 11 minutes, with over 49,000 deaths every year in our country;

WHEREAS, in Deschutes County, approximately three people die by suicide each month. In Oregon, for youth ages 5 to 24, suicide is the second leading cause of death. Each person's death by suicide affects at least 135 other people, which translates to at least 50% of the US population has known someone who has lost their life to suicide; friends and family members are forever changed by this loss;

WHEREAS, in Deschutes County, roughly 58% of all suicide deaths are by firearm. For youth, 65% of the suicide deaths of those aged 10-17 is by firearm. Both of these trends are higher than the state and national averages;

WHEREAS, many of the people who have died by suicide never received effective behavioral health services for many reasons including the stigma of using behavioral health treatment and the stigma associated with losing a loved one to suicide;

WHEREAS, far too many Deschutes County residents die by suicide each year;

WHEREAS, Deschutes County is dedicated to partnering with behavioral health, health care organizations, state and local agencies, military/Veterans organizations, educational institutions, and the community at large, to reduce the frequency of suicide attempts and deaths, and the pain for those affected by suicide deaths. This is witnessed by:

1. Recognizing suicide as a significant public health issue in Deschutes County and declaring suicide prevention a countywide priority;
2. Supporting accessible behavioral health services for all areas in our county;

3. Helping to de-stigmatize help-seeking behaviors;
4. Acknowledging that everyone plays a role in helping to prevent suicide; and
5. Encouraging initiatives known to be effective at preventing suicide attempts and death, such as securely storing firearms.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners do hereby designate the month of September, and each year thereafter, as “Suicide Prevention Awareness Month” in Deschutes County and urge the community to learn how they can help prevent suicide.

Dated this xxth day of September 2025, by the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.

Anthony DeBone, Chair

Patti Adair, Vice-Chair

ATTEST:

Recording Secretary

Phil Chang, Commissioner