



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, Florida's 5.5 million elders are valued members of society and deserve to lead longer, healthier and more productive lives; and

WHEREAS, the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse designated June 15th as World Elder Abuse Day in 2006, in support of the United Nations International Plan of Action, to recognize the significance of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue; and

WHEREAS, maintaining and improving support programs such as senior centers, companion programs, and community-based services can prevent elder abuse and allows everyone to continue to live healthy and fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, all seniors should be treated with respect to enable them to continue to live an independent life and serve as leaders, mentors and volunteers; and

WHEREAS, ageism may contribute to the incidence of elder abuse and can be combatted by empowering independence, self-sufficiency, respect and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, we are required to report elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation when we suspect it in order to improve the health, well-being, and lives of all Florida's seniors; and

WHEREAS, as our state and nation continues to face the challenges of COVID-19, the Florida Department of Elder Affairs has launched new initiatives to lessen the impact of social isolation and loneliness on aging adults and their caregivers, and to foster more meaningful connections between seniors and their families; and

WHEREAS, Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Florida is an opportunity to ensure the welfare of Florida's seniors, recognize the role they play in our families, communities and workplaces, and celebrate their talents, accomplishments and contributions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing June 15, 2020, as *Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Florida*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 15th day of June, in the year two thousand twenty.



Governor