



# State of Mississippi

**TATE REEVES**  
Governor

October 26, 2022

To whom it may concern,

Over the last few years, we have seen a crisis of depression, loneliness, and anxiety amongst young Americans. This can be confusing because we live in a time of great prosperity and peace compared to almost any other point in history. I can only conclude, from my perch, that what we are facing is a lack of meaning. Young people in Mississippi and across the country are craving a purpose. In government, we are working to ensure that barriers are knocked down for purposeful work and careers. There are other great leaders working in more personal ways to stem this crisis.

I have been deeply encouraged to hear the stories of great impact from Dean Sikes' program in Mississippi and across the country which tells children "You matter." In a time when I fear more and more deaths by suicide and desperation, these words are more necessary than ever. It is emblazoned in a simple pledge: I choose to live and not end my life because I was created as an original. I was created for relationships. I was created to fulfill a purpose."

I have been uplifted by what I understand to be a sea of change among the students who have the opportunity to take this pledge and hear this message. I encourage anyone who is considering this program to listen and explore it.

Finding purpose is necessary now more than ever.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tate Reeves".

Tate Reeves  
Governor, State of Mississippi