



# *Proclamation*

## *By the Governor of Alabama*

*WHEREAS*, approximately every three hours in the United States, a person or vehicle is hit by a train; and

*WHEREAS*, combined, highway-rail grade crossing and trespassing incidents account for 100% of all rail-related deaths in America; and

*WHEREAS*, as matter of safety, it is necessary for pedestrians, cyclists and the public to never trespass or play around railroad tracks; and

*WHEREAS*, a motorist is 20 times more likely to die in a crash involving a train than in a collision involving another motor vehicle; and

*WHEREAS*, nearly 60 percent of vehicle/train collisions occur at highway-rail grade crossings with active warning devices (gates, lights, and/or bells); and

*WHEREAS*, in 2018, preliminary data shows within the 81 vehicle crashes involving trains, there were 39 injuries and 12 fatalities in Alabama; and

*WHEREAS*, The Federal Railroad Administration ranked Alabama eighth among the top 15 states with the highest number of highway-rail grade crossing collisions in 2018; and

*WHEREAS*, Operation Lifesaver, state agencies, railroad companies, and state and local law enforcement officials are joining together to heighten awareness about the importance of "rail safety" by urging all motorists to obey signals, gates and other safety devices at highway-rail grade crossings and all pedestrians/cyclists to stay away from the tracks; and

*WHEREAS*, Rail Safety Awareness Week raises public awareness encouraging motorists to drive safely;

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim September 22– 28, 2019, as

# *Rail Safety Awareness Week*

*in the state of Alabama.*



*Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of September 2019.*

*Kay Ivey*  
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Kay Ivey, Governor