

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

Whereas, Suicide is a national public health challenge that causes immeasurable pain among individuals, families, and communities across the country; and

Whereas, Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, 2nd for people ages 10-35, and on average 129 Americans die by suicide death day accounting for 47,173 suicide deaths in 2017; and

Whereas, The number of Veteran and Military suicides has exceeded 6,000 each year from 2008-2017; and

Whereas, Suicide is the 12th leading cause of death in Massachusetts, 2nd leading cause of death for ages 10-34, the 4th leading cause of death for ages 5-54, and the 8th leading cause of death for ages 55-64; and

Whereas, Massachusetts has established a Suicide Prevention Program that provides support to community agencies, education and training for professionals and caregivers, and funds programs working with youth, veterans, and older adults; and

Whereas, We recognize September as National Suicide Prevention Month for every individual struggling with suicide in an effort to bring awareness to the possibility of prevention and stand in solidarity with all those who are affected by this public health crisis; and

Whereas, Suicide prevention is possible as suicide is not inevitable for anyone; and

Whereas, Suicidal thoughts can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, race sexual orientation, income level, or background, but understanding the risk factors and warning signs for suicidal behavior can greatly help us all care for our family, friends, and neighbors,

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim September, 2020, to be,

## NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this third day of September, in the year two thousand and twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fourth.

BY HIS EXCELLENCE

Handwritten signature of Charles D. Baker in blue ink.

CHARLES D. BAKER  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of Karyn E. Polito in blue ink.

KARYN E. POLITO  
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of William Francis Galvin in blue ink.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts