

The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH SEPTEMBER 2020

- WHEREAS,** *Suicide is a national public health challenge that causes immeasurable pain among individuals, families, and communities across the country; and*
- WHEREAS,** *The number of Veteran and Military suicides has exceeded 6,000 each year from 2008-2017. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, 2nd for people ages 10-35, and an average of 129 Americans die by suicide each day accounting for 47,173 suicide deaths in 2017; and*
- WHEREAS,** *On March 5, 2019, the President signed Executive Order 13861 calling for the development of a comprehensive plan to empower Veterans and end suicide through coordinated suicide prevention efforts, prioritized research activities, and strengthened collaboration across public and private sectors. This plan is known as the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide or PREVENTS (the "Roadmap"); and*
- WHEREAS,** *For every individual who feels alone, ashamed, or believes that they would be a burden if their thoughts or feelings were shared, there are scores of others in every community who want to help but may not be sure how; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Maryland businesses are in the unique position to leverage the learnings from our employees, including Veterans, to encourage a national discussion on mental health and well-being in the workplace, and collaborate on meaningful solutions; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Maryland is currently participating in the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families that brings together interagency teams to address Veteran suicide in Maryland; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Maryland joins the PREVENTS nationwide campaign to increase awareness of mental health issues and suicide prevention to reduce suicide for all Americans.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim SEPTEMBER 2020 as NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH in Maryland and do commend support of this observance to all of our citizens.

Given *Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,*
this ^{1st} day of September
Two Thousand and twenty



Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor

Byrd H. Lathrop
Lt. Governor

John C. Waberski
Secretary of State