



*State of Missouri*

## *Governor's Proclamation*

**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 to 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States, second for people ages 10 to 35, and on average 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 the 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 are not sure how; and

**WHEREAS**, Missouri businesses are in the unique position to leverage the learnings from our employees, including Veterans, to encourage a national discussion on mental health and wellbeing in the workplace, and collaborate on meaningful solutions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families that brings together interagency teams to address Veteran suicide at the state level; and

**WHEREAS**, the PREVENTS national public health campaign REACH, will seek to increase awareness of mental health issues and suicide prevention to reduce suicide for all Americans.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2020 to be

### **NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH**

in Missouri and proclaim our full support for the implementation of the PREVENTS "Roadmap," working with this whole of Government and whole of Nation approach to help identify Veterans and other citizens in need of care; develop best practices around mental health; prioritize mental health in the workplace; participate in the Governor's, Mayor's, or other similar coordinated challenges and/or efforts if available in my state or as the opportunity arises; and promote the REACH National Public Health Campaign. I call upon all citizens, Government agencies, nonprofit organizations, corporations, health care providers, first responders, the criminal justice community, institutions of higher learning, the faith-based community, the arts community, and the research sector in the great state of Missouri to raise awareness of mental health, suicide prevention, lethal means safety, and support services available in their communities and to encourage all those in need to REACH to access help, hope, and community.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020.



*Michael L. Parson*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE