

# STATE OF MONTANA

## GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION



*WHEREAS*, Suicide is a national public health challenge that causes immeasurable pain among individuals and families in communities across the country and especially in Montana. Currently, the number of Veteran and Military suicides has exceeded 6,000 each year from 2008-2017, 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 and;

*WHEREAS*, This plan was put in place for every individual who feels alone, ashamed, or believes that they would be a burden if their thoughts or feelings were shared. Montana 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 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, and;

*WHEREAS*, I encourage all Montanans to join me in raising awareness for mental health and suicide prevention by implementing the PREVENTS Roadmap, through helping to identify Veterans and other citizens in need of care; develop best practices around mental health; prioritize mental health in the workplace; participate in coordinated challenges and efforts if available in my state or as the opportunity arises; and promote the REACH National Public Health Campaign, and;

*BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED*, I, *Steve Bullock*, Governor of the State of Montana, do hereby proclaim the month of September as "National Suicide Awareness Month" and recognize September 10, 2020 as "World Suicide Prevention Day" in the State of Montana.

*IN WITNESS THEREOF,*

*I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Great State of Montana to be affixed on September 8, 2020*



STEVE BULLOCK, *Governor*



COREY STAPLETON, *Secretary of State*