

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

VETERAN AND MILITARY SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY SEPTEMBER 10, 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 overall and the 2nd leading cause of death for people ages 10-35; on average 129 Americans die by suicide each day accounting for 47,173 suicide deaths in 2017; 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 aren't sure how; 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, also known as the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide or PREVENTS; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans and their Families brings together interagency teams to address veteran suicide at the state level; and the national public health campaign REACH seeks to increase awareness of mental health issues and suicide prevention to reduce all suicide; and

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

WHEREAS, North Dakota fully supports the implementation of the PREVENTS "Roadmap" using a 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 and prioritize mental health in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, 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 North Dakota are encouraged to raise awareness of mental health, suicide prevention, lethal means safety and support services available in their communities and to encourage those in need to REACH to access help, hope and community.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim
September 10, 2020, **VETERAN AND MILITARY SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY**
in the State of North Dakota.





Doug Burgum
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



Alvin A. Jaeger
SECRETARY OF STATE