

The State of New Hampshire
By His Excellency
Christopher T. Sununu, Governor

A Proclamation

In the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty

PREVENTS AWARENESS MONTH
SEPTEMBER 2020

WHEREAS, suicide is a national public health challenge that causes immeasurable pain among individuals, families, and communities across the country, and 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 (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, New Hampshire 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, CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim **SEPTEMBER 2020** as **PREVENTS AWARENESS MONTH** in the State of New Hampshire, and call this to the attention of all citizens.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of New Hampshire to be affixed this 31st day of August, 2020.

Chith T. Sununu

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor