

**EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**WHEREAS**, suicide is a national public health challenge that causes immeasurable pain among individuals, families, and communities across the country; 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**, South Dakota 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 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

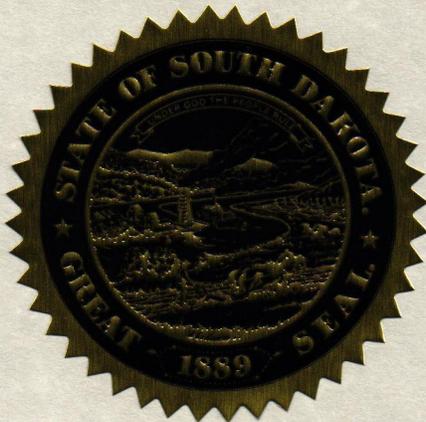
**WHEREAS**, the PREVENTS national public health campaign REACH, will seek to increase awareness of mental health issues and suicide prevention to reduce suicide for all Americans.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, KRISTI NOEM**, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 10, 2020, as

**WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY**

in South Dakota.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-fifth Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty.



**Kristi Noem**  
Governor of South Dakota

**ATTEST:**

**Steven J. Barnett**  
Secretary of State