



**STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

The untimely and unexpected passing of a beloved family member or friend causes immeasurable grief and heartache for everyone whose life that person touched. When a life is lost to suicide, those who are left behind face grief, pain, and many unanswered questions, including wondering if there was more that could have been done to prevent this unimaginable tragedy.

Suicide is a national public health challenge, ranking as the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and as the second leading cause for people ages 10-35, with, on average, 129 Americans dying by suicide each day. Additionally, our brave veterans and active duty military members are disproportionately affected by suicide, with over 6,000 veteran and military suicides each year from 2008 to 2017. There is no doubt that more must be done to combat this critical public health challenge and to save lives.

On March 5, 2019, President Trump created the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS), a comprehensive plan to empower veterans and end suicide through coordinated suicide prevention efforts, prioritized research, and increased collaboration in these efforts across the public and private sectors.

We dedicate September 10 to spreading awareness about mental health and suicide prevention, encouraging a statewide and nationwide discussion about these important issues, and helping workplaces, veterans' services, families, and advocates collaborate on meaningful solutions to reduce and eliminate suicide for all Texans and Americans.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to become more aware of the tragedy of suicide and join this important fight to save lives across our state and nation. No Texan should feel alone, ashamed, or as though they are a burden to others, and I encourage Texans to always display kindness, compassion, and love to their families, friends, and neighbors. Together, we can help create a future where this terrible heartbreak is no more.

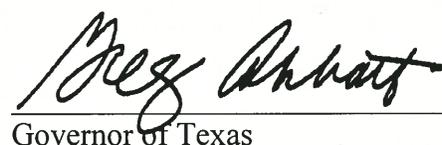
Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim September 10, 2020, to be

Suicide Prevention Day



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this the 1st day of September, 2020.


Governor of Texas