



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman

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Executive Director

RESOLUTION

**Recognizing the Month of September 2020 as
"Suicide Prevention Awareness Month" in New Jersey**

September 15, 2020

WHEREAS, #BeThe1To is once again National Suicide Prevention Lifeline message for National Suicide Prevention Month 2020, a month when mental health advocates, prevention organizations, survivors, allies, and community members unite to promote suicide prevention awareness and break down the related stigma; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID- 19 pandemic younger adults, racial/ethnic minorities, essential workers, and unpaid adult caregivers reported having experienced disproportionately worse mental health outcomes, increased substance use, and elevated suicidal ideation; and

WHEREAS, the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic should increase intervention and prevention efforts to address associated mental health conditions, with community-level efforts, including communications strategies that prioritize the highest at-risk groups; and

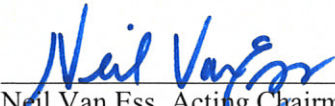
WHEREAS, suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States, with 48,344 Americans having died by suicide in 2018, with 1.4 million suicide attempts, with expectations that these numbers will go up as a result of the effects of COVID-19 on individual and families' mental health; and

WHEREAS, there are telehealth and other online treatment and supports available to meet the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, and individuals and families be encouraged to access these valuable and effective resources; and

WHEREAS, suicide is preventable, and New Jersey provides many suicide prevention resources, including the NJ Suicide Prevention Hopeline, National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 2nd Floor, Vet2Vet, and Cop2Cop.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse hereby recognizes the month of September 2020 as "Suicide Prevention Awareness Month" in New Jersey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to Governor Phil Murphy; the New Jersey Legislature; the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services; the Department of Children and Families; County Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Directors; County Mental Health Administrators, and County Alliance Coordinators.



Neil Van Ess, Acting Chairman



Date