



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, 790 New Jersey residents died by suicide in 2018, which is 15 percent higher than 10 years ago with the highest suicide rate occurring in the 45 to 64 age group; and

WHEREAS, suicide was the 13th leading cause of death in New Jersey in 2018 and the 2nd leading cause of death for New Jersey residents ages 15-34 and the 4th leading cause of death for ages 35-44; and

WHEREAS, known risk factors of suicide, which include mental illness, serious physical illness, chronic pain, addiction, loss, economic concerns, trauma, stress, and loneliness will be exacerbated by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, a recent CDC survey conducted in 2020 since the onset of the pandemic found that almost 11 percent of adults had seriously considered suicide in the last month and that the rates were significantly higher among respondents aged 18-24 years, minority racial/ethnic groups, unpaid caregivers for adults, and essential workers; and

WHEREAS, our military service members are faced with many challenges, including depression and suicidality, and the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs provides a comprehensive package of services for our service members and their families; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey, in partnership with Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care, operates several 24-hour anonymous and confidential helplines staffed by peers, volunteers and clinical professionals to provide support and referral for the public and high-risk groups:

- New Jersey Suicide Prevention Hopeline, 1-855-654-6735
- Vet2Vet, (866-VETS-NJ-4 or 866-838-7654) for veterans and their families
- Cop2Cop, (866-COP-2-COP or 866-267-2267) for law enforcement officers and their families
- 2NDFLOOR Youth Helpline, 1-888-222-2228, for youth to contact for any concern including suicide via phone, text, or online at www.2ndfloor.org; and

WHEREAS, it was signed into law that New Jersey colleges and universities be required to provide 24-hour/seven day-a-week assistance to students who might be at risk for suicide; and

WHEREAS, the Traumatic Loss Coalitions for Youth Program, through the provision of training and awareness, builds on the foundation that community members and organizations that work closely with school-aged youth can join in suicide prevention and postvention efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, is launching a health care system-wide transformation toward safer suicide care through the implementation of a Zero Suicide Approach, utilizing evidence-based modalities that include reducing access to firearms and other lethal means;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

SEPTEMBER 6 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 12, 2020
AS
SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

in New Jersey.



"Working together to Prevent Suicide."

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-seventh day of August in the year two thousand twenty, the two hundred forty-fifth year of the Independence of the United States.


Lt. GOVERNOR


GOVERNOR