

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

WHEREAS, throughout the nation, we recognize September as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, a time to share a message of hope and healing, to de-stigmatize talking about suicide and accessing treatment, to promote awareness of each of the suicide prevention resources available across the state and to recognize that everyone has a role to play in preventing suicide; and

WHEREAS, suicide is a problem that affects people across the state and can affect anyone regardless of age, gender or background and in 2022, there were [127 suicide deaths among Vermont residents, the highest number and rate of suicide deaths recorded in Vermont](#). Suicide is the 9th leading cause of death in the state; and

WHEREAS, it is a priority of the State of Vermont to ensure people struggling with their mental health or suicidal thoughts – or those who are concerned about a loved one or someone they know – realize they are not alone, and help is available; and

WHEREAS, Vermont is especially committed to addressing the needs of Vermonters who may be at a higher risk for suicide – including our veterans, first responders, people with disabilities, individuals who identify as LGBTQIA+, older Vermonters, people who live in rural areas, Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and Vermont’s youth; and

WHEREAS, to work to ensure all Vermonters have access to the support they need, the new Facing Suicide VT statewide prevention initiative from the Vermont Department of Health and Department of Mental Health through funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Program](#) will build on existing partnerships and programs, bolster collective efforts on the integration between healthcare and mental health, and provide specific resources to people at higher risk for suicide find more information at [FacingSuicideVT.com](#); and

WHEREAS, help and supports are available 24/7 via phone call, text, or chat from the [988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) – dial or text 9-8-8 and be connected to a local crisis center or chat at [988Lifeline.org](#) – for people struggling with depression or suicidal thoughts, and for anyone who is concerned about a loved one or simply someone they know; and

WHEREAS, resources and support are available for people who have lost someone to suicide. Talking to someone who has been through a similar experience can help and [you can find a peer support group near you in Vermont](#); and

WHEREAS, Vermont honors our educators, health and mental health professionals, first responders, care providers, community organizations, and family members for their steadfast dedication to each of their roles which are central to suicide prevention and activities that reduce risk and promote healing after a suicide death.

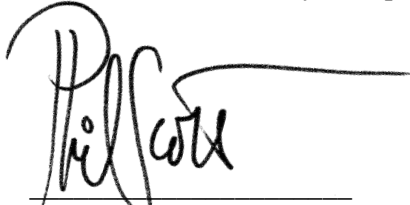
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim September 2023 as

SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH




in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 1st day of September, A.D. 2023.



Philip B. Scott
Governor



Brittney J. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs