

**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 remember the lives lost to suicide, to de-stigmatize talking about suicide and accessing treatment, to promote awareness 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 complex issue that affects people across the state and can affect anyone regardless of age, gender or background and in 2023, there were 125 suicide deaths among Vermont residents. Suicide is the 9<sup>th</sup> 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 are disproportionately affected by 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 Facing Suicide VT campaign 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 in alignment with the State Strategic Plan for Suicide Prevention 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](https://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](https://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 2024 as

**SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH**  
in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 21st day of August, A.D. 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Scott", written over a horizontal line.

Philip B. Scott  
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittney J. Wilson", written over a horizontal line.

Brittney J. Wilson  
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs