

State of Maine



**WHEREAS**, September marks National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, a nationwide effort to inform and engage health professionals and the general public about suicide prevention and warning signs; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide is a national public health challenge that causes immeasurable pain among individuals, families, and communities across the country, and for every individual who feels alone, ashamed, or believes that they would be a burden if their thoughts or feelings were shared; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and the 2nd leading cause among young adults, and 90 percent of people who die by suicide had shown symptoms of a mental health condition, according to interviews with family, friends, and medical professionals; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of Veteran and Military suicides exceeded 6,000 each year from 2008-2017, while an average 129 Americans died by suicide each day accounting for 47,173 suicide deaths in 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 5, 2019, President Trump signed Executive Order 13861 calling for the development of 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 activities, and strengthened collaboration across the public and private sectors; and

**WHEREAS**, established under PREVENTS, the National Public Health Campaign REACH seeks to change the conversation around suicide by urging people to recognize their own risk and protective factors, as well as the risk and protective factors of their loved ones; and

**WHEREAS**, Maine businesses and organizations across the state are in a unique position to leverage the learnings from employees, including Veterans, to encourage a national discussion on mental health and wellbeing in the workplace, and collaborate on meaningful solutions;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim my full support for the implementation of the PREVENTS plan; working with this whole of Government and whole of Nation approach to help identify Veterans and other citizens in need of care; develop best practices around mental health; prioritize mental health in the workplace; and promote the REACH National Public Health Campaign. I call upon all citizens, Government agencies, nonprofit organizations, corporations, health care providers, first responders, the criminal justice community, institutions of higher learning, the faith-based community, the Arts community, and the research sector in the great state of Maine to raise awareness of mental health, suicide prevention, lethal means safety, and support services available in their communities and to encourage all those in need to REACH for help, hope, and community.



In testimony whereof, I have caused  
the Great Seal of the State to be  
hereunto affixed GIVEN under my  
hand at Augusta this eighth day  
of September Two Thousand Twenty

Janet T. Mills  
Governor

Matthew Dunlap  
Secretary of State