

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, each life lost to suicide is one too many; and,

*Whereas*, the way we talk about suicide matters. Suicide is a complex and deeply personal issue that affects people of all ages, races, and backgrounds. Changing our culture's narrative around suicide from one of despair to one of hope can help reduce stigma, encourage people to seek help, and ultimately save lives; and,

*Whereas*, by shifting the conversation, we can foster an environment where people feel safe to discuss their mental health challenges without fear of judgment; and,

*Whereas*, promoting stories of survival, recovery, and resilience can inspire hope in others. These stories remind them that their lives matter and that help is available; and,

*Whereas*, education and awareness of the risk factors and warning signs empower South Dakotans to find their voices when they see family members and friends struggling, and suggest actions that place protective factors around those individuals; and,

*Whereas*, during Suicide Prevention Month, we commit to challenging outdated beliefs about suicide, sharing messages of hope, and encouraging open and honest conversations about mental health and suicide:

*Now, Therefore, I, Kristi Noem*, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 2024, as

## ***SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH***

in South Dakota.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-eighth Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.

  
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Kristi Noem, Governor

Attest:

  
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Monae L. Johnson, Secretary of State