

**EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**WHEREAS**, every year too many South Dakotans die by suicide which is a preventable public health problem. We can all benefit from talking openly about mental health concerns and suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, by knowing how to start the conversation, listen, and provide support to someone in need, we can save lives; and

**WHEREAS**, South Dakota is committed to raising awareness about suicide prevention resources and encourages youth and adults to speak up and show you care if someone you know may be at risk; and

**WHEREAS**, South Dakota's suicide prevention plan includes programs like the Department of Social Service's (DSS) "605 Strong" program, DSS's "Zero Suicide" program, and planning for the launch of the 988 suicide prevention lifeline; and

**WHEREAS**, we all can be the one to help prevent suicide by learning the five action steps: ask the question, be there, keep them safe, help them stay connected, and follow-up; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals are more likely to feel less depressed, less suicidal, less overwhelmed, and more hopeful after speaking to someone who listens without judgment; and

**WHEREAS**, hope, help, and healing are possible. Mental health and crisis intervention services are available in South Dakota, including the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1.800.273.TALK (8255) and the Crisis Text Line by texting to 741741.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, KRISTI NOEM**, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 2021, as

**SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH**

in South Dakota.

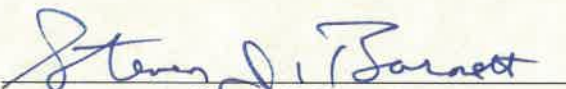
**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this eleventh day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-One.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristi Noem

Governor of South Dakota

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven J. Barnett

Secretary of State