



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, suicide is one of the most disruptive and tragic events a family and a community can experience, with more than 1000 lives lost in Tennessee each year and an estimated 8-25 attempted suicides for each suicide death; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the tenth-leading cause of all deaths in Tennessee and the second-leading cause of death among people from the age of 10 to 24; and

WHEREAS, three lives a day are lost to suicide in Tennessee, which means we lose 21 Tennesseans each week and 84 people per month; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee veterans, active-duty military personnel, and National Guardsmen face a disproportionate risk as compared to the general population of Tennessee, with more dying from suicide than combat; and

WHEREAS, public awareness of this tragic problem is the key to preventing further suffering and loss of life; and the risk for suicide can be reduced through awareness, education, and treatment; and as the highest risk for suicide is among the survivors of those who died by suicide and those who have attempted suicide; and

WHEREAS, suicide prevention has been declared a statewide priority by the Governor; and the legislature, in partnership with the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network, implements the Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention based on the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is a national leader in the effort to prevent suicide, being one of the first states to develop a suicide prevention and evaluation plan covering the lifespan; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Tennessee has appointed a Suicide Prevention Network Advisory Council to coordinate the implementation of the Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention; and

WHEREAS, TSPN is a grassroots collaboration of Tennesseans and organizations working to eliminate the stigma of suicide, educate the community about the warning signs of suicide, and ultimately reduce the rate of suicide in our state; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network is committed to excellence in suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 2018, as

Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this seventh day of August, 2018.

Bill Haslam

Governor

John R. Hester

Secretary of State