American Association of Suicidology
National Suicide Prevention Week
September 6 - 12, 2020

Governor’s (or Mayor’s) Proclamation Template

Instructions:
The goal of a proclamation is to promote your activities to the general public. Add your organization’s information in the allotted areas.

Change the items to suit your community’s needs, or the specific theme of your event, should it differ. For example, include statistics or facts from your state or to suit your demographic criteria. For recent statistics, please consult the WISQARS database run by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) (www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/).

Public officials willing to sign your proclamation increase attention to your efforts. Typically, the Governor or Mayor signs the proclamation. Try to find a public official who already has some interest in the issue of suicide prevention.

Make the signing a public event. Organize a press conference for the occasion. Send copies of the proclamation to newspapers and health reporters in your metropolitan area, and publicize it on your website.
Sample Proclamation
Governor’s (or Mayor’s) Proclamation

Draft for Consideration by Suicide Prevention Subcommittee (or appropriate body)
For submission to Governor (name of Governor)
Reply please with suggestions by noon Thursday 7/27/2020

Governor’s Proclamation for Suicide Prevention Week of September 6 – 12, 2020

WHEREAS, in the United States, one person dies by suicide every 10.9 minutes, with 48,344 deaths by suicide in our country during 2018;

WHEREAS, in our country, suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds, and is the 10th leading cause of death for people of all ages;

WHEREAS, each person’s death by suicide exposes at least 135 other people, with over 6.9 million newly bereaved each year;

WHEREAS, in 2018, (x number) of (residents of state, e.g. Kansans) died by suicide, and several thousand friends and family members were changed forever by losing those people;

WHEREAS, many of those people who died never received effective behavioral health services, for many reasons including the difficulty of accessing services by healthcare providers trained in best practices to reduce suicide risk, the prejudices and discrimination surrounding the use of behavioral health treatment and similar prejudices and discrimination associated with losing a loved one to suicide;

WHEREAS, the Suicide Prevention Subcommittee of the Governor’s Behavioral Health Services Planning Council (insert appropriate entity, info and makeup here), which is comprised of representatives of behavioral health organizations, state agencies, military/ veterans organizations, educational institutions, and the community at large, who are dedicated to reducing the frequency of suicide attempts and deaths, and the pain for those affected by suicide deaths, through research projects, educational programs, intervention services, and bereavement services urges that all (residents of state):

1. Recognize suicide as a significant public health problem in (state) and declare suicide prevention a statewide priority;

2. Support the development of accessible behavioral health services for all (number of counties) counties of our state, implementing national best practices in reducing suicide risk for people of all ages and backgrounds
3. Acknowledge that no single suicide prevention effort will be sufficient or appropriate for all populations or communities; and

4. Encourage initiatives based on the goals and activities contained in the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention, Zero Suicide of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, and The Way Forward by the Action Alliance’s suicide attempt survivor task force.

WHEREAS, far too many (residents of state) die by suicide each year, and most of these deaths are preventable;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that, I, (Governor's Name), Governor of (State), do hereby designate September 6th through 12th, 2020, as “Suicide Prevention Week” in the state of (State) and urge (residents of state) to learn how they can help because Suicide Prevention Is Everyone’s Business.