

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** suicide is a national public health challenge that causes immeasurable grief and pain among individuals, families, and communities across the country; and
- Whereas,** according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 49,000 people died by suicide in 2022, which is equivalent to one death every 11 minutes; and
- Whereas,** according to the CDC many adults think about or attempt suicide, with an estimated 13.2 million adults seriously thinking about suicide, 3.8 million adults making a plan for suicide and 1.6 million adults having attempted suicide; and
- Whereas,** according to the CDC 375 people died by suicide in West Virginia in 2021, which equates to a rate of 20.69 per 100,000 population, and ranks WV as 10th in the nation; and
- Whereas,** according to the CDC suicide is the second leading cause of death for those ages 10-24 and ages 25 to 34 in West Virginia; and
- Whereas,** according to the American Foundation for the Prevention almost six times as many people died by suicide than in alcohol related motor vehicle accidents in West Virginia; and
- Whereas,** according to the American Foundation for the Prevention the total deaths to suicide reflected a total of 7, 215 years of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 65 in West Virginia; and
- Whereas,** according to the American Foundation for the Prevention 94% of adults surveyed in the U.S. think suicide can be prevented; and
- Whereas,** with September being recognized as *Suicide Awareness Month*, the National Suicide Prevention & Action Month Proclamation was created to raise the visibility of mental health and proactive suicide prevention resources in our community. We also want to start the conversation, destigmatize it, and help connect people with the appropriate support services; and
- Whereas,** according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (A.F.S.P.), more than 49,000 people die by suicide annually in the United States; and
- Whereas,** according to Hope for the Day (H.F.T.D.), with an average of 132 suicides completed daily and each one directly impacting 100 additional people, including friends, service members, family, social media connections, and neighbors we can safely assume everyone has been impacted by suicide; and
- Whereas,** the Great State of West Virginia publicly places its full support behind those who work in the field of mental health, education, and law enforcement; and
- Whereas,** Global organizations like Hope for the Day and our local mental health partner insert name here, serve on the front lines of a war that many refuse to discuss due to stigma; and
- Whereas,** the Mountain State encourages all residents to take time to understand mental health through education and recognize that we need to take care of our mental health while we take care of each other.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *September 2024* as:


National Suicide Prevention and Action Month

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in observance.


In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Third day of September, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Second year of the State.




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State