



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, suicide is the only leading cause of death that has increased every year for the past decade in the United States; one person dies every 12.3 minutes, and 25 attempt suicide – over 44,000 die per year; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and 2nd leading cause of death among individuals ages 10 – 34; over 1.1 million suicide attempts occur each year; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, twice as many people in North Carolina died by suicide than by homicide – with 1,406 suicide deaths, or 25,842 years of life lost before age 65; more than 35,150 people attempted suicide; and

WHEREAS, five veterans die each week in our state, and even more attempt suicide; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that one in six overdose deaths are intentional deaths; and

WHEREAS, there is no one cause for suicide; more than 90 percent of those who die by suicide have a diagnosable and treatable mental health condition that is most often not recognized or treated; and

WHEREAS, suicide results in an estimated \$51 billion in combined medical and work-loss costs nationally, and \$1,358,735,000 in combined medical and work-loss costs in North Carolina annually; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as the National Action Alliance on Suicide Prevention, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and the NC Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council are dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide through research, education, advocacy, and resources for those who are at risk or touched by suicide; it is imperative that we:

1. Promote suicide prevention as a priority and a preventable public health problem;
2. Promote and sustain access to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-8255;
3. Reduce the stigmas that prevent people from seeking mental health treatment and life-saving help;
4. Understand that suicide most often occurs when stressors exceed current coping abilities;
5. Implement and sustain effective strategies outlined in North Carolina's Suicide Prevention Plan;
6. Acknowledge that no single suicide prevention program will be appropriate for all our communities;
7. Increase access to quality mental health, substance use disorders, and suicide prevention services;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 10 – 16, 2017, as “**NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK**” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this eleventh day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.