



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State recognizes the critical importance of our mental health and well-being, and is committed to advancing a comprehensive public health approach to reduce death by suicide; and

Whereas, tragically, more than 1,700 New Yorkers have died by suicide each year since 2018, with an average of one such death every five hours; every suicide attempt and death impacts individuals, families, and communities and requires collective and preventative action; and

Whereas, in 2021, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline received more than 168,000 calls from New Yorkers; 27,196 former service members were connected to the Veteran's Crisis Line; and approximately 41,000 individuals reached out via text for support from the Crisis Text Line; and

Whereas, this past July saw New York State's launch of 988 as the new three-digit number for people to call, text, or live chat with a trained counselor who is part of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline; the service is available for persons in our state who are experiencing a mental or behavioral health or substance use crisis, as well as those concerned about someone in distress and, upon its full implementation, will be accessible to individuals in all 62 statewide counties; and

Whereas, out of concern for the safety and well-being of our family members and friends, we should take the opportunity to learn more about suicide and its prevention, remembering in these challenging times that it is more important than ever to instill hope in people facing life's difficulties and let them know they are not alone, and provide compassion and moral support to them; and

Whereas, the New York State Office of Mental Health, through its work at the Suicide Prevention Center of New York, is committed to promoting and advancing evidence-based and comprehensive suicide prevention in statewide healthcare settings, schools, and communities; and

Whereas, since 2021, more than 71,566 New Yorkers have received suicide-specific training, funded by the Office of Mental Health and delivered to community members, healthcare providers, school staff, and students across the State; and

Whereas, no one should suffer alone with suicidal thoughts and, in order to build stronger and healthier communities, it is important to openly discuss suicide and listen without judgement to suicide attempt survivors and survivors of suicide loss, as we can all learn from the stories they are willing to share; and

Whereas, Suicide Prevention Month and World Suicide Prevention Day ask each of us as part of the one global family of human beings to take the opportunity to educate ourselves about suicide and its prevention, how to reach out to one another and foster hope, resiliency, and meaningful connections, in order to find the most effective ways of helping those in need;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim September 2022 as

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this second day of
September in the year two thousand twenty-two.

Kathy Hochul
Governor

[Signature]

Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh