

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

- WHEREAS, suicide is a national public health challenge that causes immeasurable pain among individuals, families, and communities across the country; and
- WHEREAS, accounting for 47,173 deaths in 2017, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, with Veteran and Military suicides exceeding 6,000 each year from 2008-2017; and
- WHEREAS, on March 5, 2019, the President signed Executive Order 13861 calling for the development of a comprehensive plan, the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide or PREVENTS (the "Roadmap") to empower Veterans and end suicide through coordinated suicide prevention efforts, prioritized research activities, and strengthened collaboration across the public and private sectors; and
- WHEREAS, for every individual who feels alone, ashamed, or believes that they would be a burden if their thoughts or feelings were shared, there are scores of others in every community who want to help but are not sure how; and
- WHEREAS, businesses across the state are in the unique position to leverage the learnings from employees, including Veterans, to encourage a national discussion on mental health and wellbeing in the workplace and collaborate on meaningful solutions; and
- WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs has a Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families that brings together interagency teams to address Veteran suicide at the state level; and
- WHEREAS, the PREVENTS national public health campaign REACH seeks to increase awareness of mental health issues and suicide prevention to reduce suicide for all Americans.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 2020 as

VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

and September 10, 2020, as

PREVENTS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to identify Veterans and other citizens in need of care, raise awareness of mental health, suicide prevention, lethal means safety, and support services available in their communities, and encourage all those in need to REACH to access help, hope, and community.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Henry McMaster".

HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA