

**EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**WHEREAS**, suicide is a preventable public health problem. By knowing how to start the conversation, listen and provide support to someone in need, we can save lives; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, South Dakota had the second highest number of suicides ever reported in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, 23.1 percent of high school students in South Dakota reported they had seriously considered suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide affects everyone, but some groups are at higher risk than others. Men are about four times more likely than women to die from suicide. However, women are more likely to express suicidal thoughts and to make nonfatal attempts than men; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals are more likely to feel less depressed, less suicidal, less overwhelmed, and more hopeful after speaking to someone who listens without judgment; and

**WHEREAS**, we all can be the one to help prevent suicide by learning the five action steps: asking the question, keeping them safe, be there, help them connect, and follow-up; and

**WHEREAS**, Hope, help, and healing is possible. Mental health and crisis intervention services are available in South Dakota, including the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1.800.273.TALK (8255) and the Crisis Text Line by text at 741741.


**NOW, THEREFORE, I, KRISTI NOEM**, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 2020, as

**SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH**

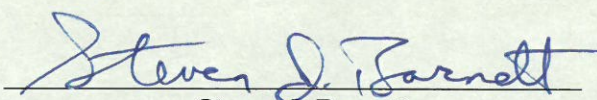
in South Dakota.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-fifth Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Kristi Noem**  
Governor of South Dakota

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Steven J. Barnett**  
Secretary of State