

STATE OF KANSAS



PROCLAMATION
BY THE
GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, in the United States, one person dies by suicide every 13.3 minutes, with 39,518 deaths by suicide in our country during 2011; and

WHEREAS, in our country, suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds, and is the 10th leading cause of death for people of all ages; and

WHEREAS, each person's death by suicide intimately affects at least six other people, with over 200,000 newly bereaved each year; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, 505 Kansans died by suicide, and several thousand friends and family members were changed forever by losing those people; and

WHEREAS, many of those people who died never received effective mental health services, for many reasons including the difficulty of accessing services, the stigma of using mental health treatment and the stigma associated with losing a loved one to suicide; and

WHEREAS, the Suicide Prevention Subcommittee of the Governor's Mental Health Services Planning Council, which is comprised of representatives of mental health organizations, state agencies, educational institutions, and the community at large, who are dedicated to reducing the frequency of suicide attempts and deaths, and the pain for those affected by suicide deaths, through research projects, educational programs, intervention services, and bereavement services urges that all Kansans:

1. Recognize suicide as a significant public health problem in Kansas and declare suicide prevention statewide priority; and
2. Support the development of accessible mental health services, for all parts of our state, implementing national best practices in reducing suicide risk for people of all ages and backgrounds; and
3. Acknowledge that no single suicide prevention effort will be sufficient or appropriate for all populations or communities; and
4. Encourage initiatives based on the goals contained in the Kansas Plan to Reduce Suicide and the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention; and

WHEREAS, far too many Kansans die by suicide each year, and most of these deaths are preventable:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sam Brownback, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim September 7th - 13th of 2014, as

Suicide Prevention Week

in Kansas and urge Kansans to learn how they can help because Suicide Prevention Is Everyone's Business.



DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka
under the Great Seal of the
State this 22nd day of
August, A.D. 2014

BY THE GOVERNOR:

The signature of Sam Brownback, Governor of Kansas, written in black ink.

Secretary of State

Assistant Secretary of State