

WHEREAS; suicide is a growing and complex public health challenge that affects the lives of individuals, families, and communities across our state and country; and

WHEREAS; this tragic issue is pervasive in Wisconsin's veteran and active military member community, exemplified by how, from 2013 to 2017, veterans represented nearly one-fifth of those who died by suicide; and

WHEREAS; trauma, toxic stress, and adversity can make it difficult for folks to take care of themselves and the people around them but, for every individual who is struggling, please know that you are not alone, help is available, and hope lies in the fact that suicide is preventable; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin is committed to building resiliency among our veterans and military service members, to saving lives through coordinated suicide prevention efforts, evidence-based tools, and trauma-informed practices, and to addressing the root causes of trauma by connecting the dots between our state's most complex public health challenges, including COVID-19, systemic racism, mental health support, and harmful substance use; and

WHEREAS; together, we can save lives by raising awareness of suicide prevention strategies, lethal means safety, and the support services available to veterans and service members statewide, which is why Wisconsin is participating in the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin expresses its support for the PREVENTS program and reaffirms its commitment to addressing veteran mental health and suicide at the state level by identifying those in need of care, developing best practices around mental health, and prioritizing mental health in the workplace;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim September 2020 as

PREVENTS MONTH

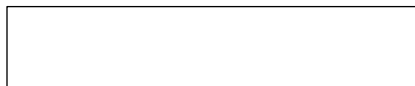
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 1st day of September 2020.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State