

The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH SEPTEMBER 2026

- WHEREAS,** *The American Counseling Association and the Maryland Counseling Association have declared September 2026 as Suicide Prevention Month to bring awareness to interventions and educational tools, such as the 988 Lifeline, that can help prevent suicide from occurring; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Suicide is a significant public health concern that affects individuals, families, and communities; approximately 630 Marylanders died by suicide in 2024, with suicide ranking as the third leading cause of death among Marylanders ages 10 to 24; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Young people, including boys and young men, may face unique challenges in seeking help, underscoring the importance of reducing stigma, strengthening connections to trusted adults and peers, and ensuring that culturally responsive and accessible resources are available; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Behavioral health professionals play an essential role in this statewide effort by teaching suicide prevention strategies, identifying and responding to individuals at risk, and providing counseling and crisis support; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Effective suicide prevention requires collaboration among State and local agencies, schools and institutions of higher education, healthcare providers, first responders, youth-serving and mentoring organizations, veterans and military-serving organizations, community and faith-based organizations, families, and individuals with lived experience; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Preventing suicide is a shared responsibility; every Marylander can contribute by learning the warning signs of suicide, promoting open and compassionate conversations about mental health, checking in with individuals who may be struggling, and helping create communities where seeking help is encouraged and supported; and*
- WHEREAS,** *During Suicide Prevention Month, the State of Maryland encourages all Marylanders to learn more about suicide prevention, become familiar with available resources, including 988, participate in suicide prevention education and training, and join together in building a healthier, safer, and more hopeful future for all.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim SEPTEMBER 2026 as SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH in Maryland, and do commend this observation to all of our citizens.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 1st day of September
Two Thousand and twenty-six

[Signature]
Governor
[Signature]
Lt. Governor
[Signature]
Secretary of State