

The State of New Hampshire
By His Excellency
Christopher T. Sununu, Governor

A Proclamation

In the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty One

MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK
OCTOBER 3-9, 2021

WHEREAS, one in five adults and children experiences a mental health condition in any given year and people of color often experience pain, trauma and disrespect at the hands of our nation's health care, criminal justice and other systems; and

WHEREAS, individuals with serious mental illness die 25 years earlier than the general population, predominately due to lack of access to quality healthcare; and

WHEREAS, there is a high correlation between mental illness and substance misuse, and timely access to treatment can save lives; and

WHEREAS, first responders, the Community Mental Health Centers, New Hampshire Hospital and inpatient psychiatric treatment programs, and emergency departments work tirelessly to assess and treat individuals in mental health crisis, and respond to the ongoing challenges presented to all our communities by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, NAMI New Hampshire (National Alliance on Mental Illness) plays an important role in providing support, education, and advocacy to all families and communities in New Hampshire affected by mental illness and suicide; and

WHEREAS, public education and civic activities like NAMIWalks NH Your Way can decrease stigma, encourage mental health treatment, and help improve the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness and suicide;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim **OCTOBER 3-9, 2021** as **MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK** in the State of New Hampshire to shine a light on mental illness and suicide, and to fight stigma, provide support, educate the public, and advocate for equal care.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of New Hampshire to be affixed this 20th day of September, 2021.

Christopher T. Sununu

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor