



Executive Department  
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor  
**Proclamation**

State Capitol  
Boise

WHEREAS, in the United States, one person dies by suicide every 13 minutes; and

WHEREAS, in our country, suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds, and is the tenth leading cause of death for people of all ages; and

WHEREAS, suicide now is the 11<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the state of Idaho, and the second leading cause of death among people from the age of 15 to 24 in Idaho; 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 2013, 308 Idahoans died by suicide, and several thousand friends and family members were changed forever by losing those people; and

WHEREAS, 51 percent of people who die by suicide use a firearm, and guns stored in the house are used for suicide 40 times more often than for self-protection; and

WHEREAS, many of those people who died never received effective behavioral health services, for many reasons including the difficulty of accessing services by healthcare providers trained in best practices to reduce suicide risk, the stigma of using behavioral health treatment and the stigma associated with losing a loved one to suicide; and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental illness and suicidality works against suicide prevention by discouraging persons at risk for suicide from seeking life-saving help and further traumatizes survivors of suicide; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Council on Suicide Prevention, which is comprised of representatives of behavioral health organizations, state agencies, SPAN Idaho, military/veterans organizations, 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 Idahoans:

1. Recognize suicide as a significant public health problem in Idaho and declare suicide prevention a statewide priority;
2. Support development of accessible behavioral health services for all 44 counties of our state, implementing national best practices in reducing suicide risk for people of all ages and backgrounds;
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 and activities contained in the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention and Idaho Suicide Prevention Plan: An Action Guide; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim September 8<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 to be

**SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK**

in Idaho and urge Idahoans to learn how they can help because suicide prevention is everyone's business.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and fourteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-ninth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-fifth.

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
GOVERNOR

BEN YURSA  
SECRETARY OF STATE