



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor
Proclamation

State Capital
Boise

WHEREAS, the week of September 6-12, 2020, is National Suicide Prevention Week, and September 2020 is National Recovery Month, when millions of people around the world join their voices to share a message of hope, healing, and celebration of the reality that recovery from mental illness and substance use disorder is possible; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's suicide rate consistently ranks higher than national rates, ranking 5th highest among states in 2018, with 418 completed suicides and notable increases among older adult males, teens, and ethnic minorities; and

WHEREAS, drug overdose death rates in Idaho have increased over the past decade with 248 Idahoans dying of drug overdose in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Idaho residents should be able to access high quality prevention, support, rehabilitation, and treatment services that lead to recovery and a healthy lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, treatment can be an important first step to recovery, with treatment more available today than ever before; and

WHEREAS, in these challenging times messages of hope and healing are more needed than ever, with recovery community centers and volunteers across Idaho placing signs with messages of hope, Signs for Our Times, throughout many communities to encourage, uplift and remind people that recovery is possible; and

WHEREAS, these observances are united in raising awareness that prevention is possible, treatment is effective, people do recover, and there are many pathways to recovery; and

WHEREAS, we must encourage relatives, friends, co-workers, and providers to recognize the signs of a problem and guide those in need to appropriate services and supports; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Suicide Prevention Action Collective, Idaho Office of Drug Policy, and Idaho Department of Health and Welfare join efforts with their partners around the state in urging all Idahoans to play a role in suicide prevention by openly sharing their lived experiences, building connections, and promoting the message that no one experiencing a health condition should feel alone; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of preventing and overcoming mental health challenges, suicide attempts and loss, and substance use disorders are significant and valuable to individuals, families, and our community at large; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that we educate residents on reducing stigma in addressing suicide, mental health, and substance use disorders and in recognizing their impact on individuals and communities; and

WHEREAS, to help more people achieve and sustain long-term recovery, the State of Idaho invites all residents of Idaho to participate in National Suicide Prevention Week and National Recovery Month;

NOW, THEREFORE I, BRAD LITTLE, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim September 2020 to be

***SUICIDE PREVENTION AND RECOVERY MONTH:
"FINDING HOPE, BUILDING RESILIENCY,
SUPPORTING RECOVERY"***

in Idaho, and I encourage my fellow Idahoans to observe this month with programs, activities, and ceremonies to highlight the promise and the reality that recovery is possible to our communities and our citizens throughout the state.



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 1st day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Little", written over a horizontal line.

**BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence Denney", written over a horizontal line.

**LAWRENCE DENNEY
SECRETARY OF STATE**