

State of Maine



WHEREAS, the people of the State of Maine value their health and that of their families and fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, nearly 25,000 Maine children, youth, and their families receive publicly funded services provided by the Department of Health and Human Services Children's Behavioral Health Services; and

WHEREAS, good mental health is a key component in a child's healthy development and Children's Mental Health Awareness Week provides the opportunity to focus on this important matter, while celebrating the accomplishments of children and families affected by mental health concerns; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, one in five children is diagnosed with a mental health condition; and

WHEREAS, early diagnosis and appropriate treatment of mental health disorders among children and adolescents provides them with better opportunities to lead full and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, it is important that children and adolescents, along with their families and communities, learn about warning signs of mental health disorders and where to obtain necessary assistance and treatment; and

WHEREAS, in Maine, the child and teen suicide rate increased by 50 percent from 2008-2012 to 2013-2017, with Maine's rate above the national average; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 national theme for this event is *Suicide Prevention: Strategies that Work*, to focus on the impact that suicide has on children, youth, young adults, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, in celebrating this day, it is fitting to increase public awareness among all Mainers of this important issue and diminish stigma;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2019, as

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to recognize this observance.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this thirtieth day of April Two Thousand Nineteen



Janet T. Mills
Governor

Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State
TRUE ATTESTED COPY