

**TO:** All Senators

**DATE:** August 29, 2019

**FROM:** Senator Christine M. Tartaglione

**SUBJECT: World Suicide Prevention Day**

In the near future, I plan to offer a resolution that I have introduced for the past several years recognizing September 10, 2019 as World Suicide Prevention Day.

Suicide has become a major public health concern and is now the tenth leading cause of death in the United States. Every year, suicide is among the top 20 leading causes of death globally for people of all ages. It is responsible for over 800,000 deaths, which equates to one suicide every 40 seconds. Furthermore, survivors of suicide are 25 times more likely to commit a suicidal act in the future. This data implies that there are many more people who have been bereaved or have been close to someone who has tried to take their own life.

Each year, on September 10th, the International Association for Suicide Prevention and the World Health Organization observe World Suicide Prevention Day. The purpose of this event is to discuss suicide and ways to prevent and treat it in hopes of saving lives by calling attention to a difficult subject. This year, the International Association for Suicide Prevention and the World Health Organization have selected the theme, "Working Together to Prevent Suicide." This can range from using kind words to a person or referring an individual to help for treatment and evaluation.

Together, we can raise awareness of and encourage discussions about suicide in hopes of ending this growing epidemic. Please join me in recognizing World Suicide Day on September 10, 2019.