

State of



Connecticut

By Her Excellency M. Jodi Rell, Governor: an

## Official Statement

*W*HEREAS, suicide is the 11<sup>th</sup> leading cause of all deaths in the United States, 2<sup>nd</sup> for individuals between the ages of 25-34, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10-14; and

*W*HEREAS, in Connecticut suicide is now the 13<sup>th</sup> leading cause of all deaths, the 2<sup>nd</sup> for ages 10-14 and 25-34 year-olds, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> among people aged 15 to 24; and

*W*HEREAS, in the United States there are an estimated 25 attempted suicides for every suicide across all ages; and

*W*HEREAS, the overall suicide rate in our country has only slightly declined from record highs in recent years, while the suicide rate for those 15-24 years old has more than doubled since the mid-1950s; and

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

*W*HEREAS, the American Association of Suicidology and the State Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services' CT Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative are dedicated to reducing the frequency of suicide attempts and deaths, and the pain of survivors affected by suicides of loved ones, through educational programs, research projects, intervention services and bereavement services; and

*W*HEREAS, with help a great number of suicides can be prevented; now

*T*HEREFORE, I, M. Jodi Rell, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby officially designate September 9 – 15, 2007, as

**NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK**  
in the State of Connecticut.



*M. Jodi Rell*  
Governor