

The State of New Hampshire
By His Excellency
Christopher T. Sununu, Governor

A Proclamation

In the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH
OCTOBER 2020

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a serious and pervasive crime affecting millions of women, men, children, and communities in the United States every year, and over 15,000 adult and child victims of domestic and sexual violence seek services annually in New Hampshire, and accounts for nearly 50 percent of all homicides in the state; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically worsened the plight of domestic violence victims, leading to an increase in calls to the statewide hotlines and requests for emergency housing. Now more than ever, victims of domestic violence need our support; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence and sexual violence can have life-long consequences emotionally, mentally, socially, spiritually and physically, and can happen to anyone regardless of race, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, or economic status; and

WHEREAS, the average lifetime cost of domestic violence for a victim is over \$100,000 for a female victim and over \$20,000 for a male victim; and knowing that approximately 38 percent of all victims of domestic violence become homeless at some point in their lives; and

WHEREAS, all victims of domestic and sexual violence have a right to be free from abuse and be treated with the dignity and respect they deserve; and

WHEREAS, everyone in New Hampshire has a role to play in ending violence in their communities and assisting domestic violence survivors. Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an important opportunity to learn more about domestic violence and to demonstrate support for numerous organizations and individuals who provide advocacy efforts and assistance to victims, including New Hampshire's 13 domestic and sexual violence crisis centers who are on the front lines of providing emergency services;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim OCTOBER 2020 as DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH in the State of New Hampshire, and call this to the attention of all citizens.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of New Hampshire to be affixed this 28th day of September, 2020.

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor