

The State of New Hampshire
By Her Excellency
Kelly A. Ayotte, Governor

A Proclamation

In the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Six

MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK
OCTOBER 4 – OCTOBER 10, 2026

WHEREAS, one in five adults and children experiences a mental health condition in any given year; and,

WHEREAS, individuals with serious mental illness die 25 years earlier than the general population; and,

WHEREAS, there is a high correlation between mental illness and substance misuse, and timely access to treatment can save lives; and,

WHEREAS, first responders, the Community Mental Health Centers, New Hampshire Hospital, Hampstead Hospital, other inpatient psychiatric treatment programs, and emergency departments work tirelessly to assess and treat individuals in mental health crisis and have worked with New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services to end emergency department boarding through the Mission Zero initiative, creating true mental health system improvement; and,

WHEREAS, NAMI New Hampshire (National Alliance on Mental Illness) plays an important role in providing support, education, and advocacy to all families and communities in New Hampshire affected by mental illness and suicide; and,

WHEREAS, public education and civic activities like NAMIWalks NH can decrease stigma, promote mental health, and improve the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness and suicide by connecting them to hope and help like that offered by New Hampshire Rapid Response and 988;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KELLY AYOTTE, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim **OCTOBER 4 – OCTOBER 10, 2026** as **MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK** in the State of New Hampshire, and encourage all citizens to shine a light on mental illness and suicide, fight stigma, provide support, educate the public, and advocate for care.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of New Hampshire to be affixed this 4th day of October, 2026.

Kelly A. Ayotte

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Governor