Suicide Prevention Advocates,

Missouri SPAN's November alert contains information about a Governor's proclamation, the status of 988 and a free tool that can help you save a life and prevent suicide.

**Missouri Suicide Prevention Proclamation**

Missouri Governor was one of 42 states that signed the PREVENTS State Proclamation pledging prioritization of suicide prevention for Veterans and all Missourians. Each state pledging promises to promote the REACH campaign that encourages everyone to reach out to those who are vulnerable, and when they themselves are in need of help.

As part of the implementation, Missouri has created a state team with federal, state and community representation to implement statewide suicide prevention best practices for service members, Veterans and their families, using a public health approach.

To learn more about the REACH campaign visit [www.reach.gov](http://www.reach.gov)

**New Law Creates 988 Hotline For Mental Health Emergencies**

You may have heard that the Federal Communications Commission has been working to establish the three-digit number '988' as the emergency 'short' number for mental health crisis. Similar to 911, this number will be easier to remember and will seamlessly connect Missourians to local/regional support during a mental health crisis. Some key things to know about this:

* 988 is scheduled to be active by July 2022. Missouri has not yet implemented the number.
* If you or someone you know is in crisis, continue to call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-8255 (TALK)

For more information on 988, [read this NPR article](https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/10/19/925447354/new-law-creates-988-hotline-for-mental-health-emergencies).

**Missouri Ask, Listen, Refer (MOALR)**

One way you can be a strong advocate for suicide prevention is by helping people learn and recognize the clues/warning signs of suicide. MOALR is a free, online training program designed to help Missourians feel competent acknowledging people who may be at risk for suicide, comfortable using clues/warnings signs as a way to start talking about concerns, and how to refer people in need to appropriate resources for help. You can access this training through our webpage at [www.mospn.org/training](http://www.mospn.org/training)

Our voice to make change is getting louder as our numbers grow. Continue to encourage people in your network to join Missouri SPAN by visiting [www.mospn.org/missourispan](http://www.mospn.org/missourispan)

Thank you for working to help make Missouri safer,

MSPN Advocacy Committee