

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 2013-007
DATE September 10, 2013

**AN ORDER REGARDING SUICIDE PREVENTION AND WORKPLACE POLICIES
WITHIN DEPARTMENTS OF STATE GOVERNMENT**

WHEREAS, suicide takes a life in Maine every two days and is the fourth leading cause of death for adults ages 35-54; and

WHEREAS, in Maine, a person is seven times as likely to die by suicide as they are from homicide; and

WHEREAS, persons of working age have the highest rate of suicide and that rate continues to incline; and

WHEREAS, the impact of a suicide attempt or suicide can be devastating on those left behind and can have a strong negative impact on program and agency staff; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maine, as an employer, is committed to promoting the health and safety of its employees; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maine, as an employer, desires to ensure that employees have the education and awareness of resources to appropriately respond when concerned about the suicide risk of a co-worker and that those experiencing suicidal tendencies understand that seeking help is encouraged and expected;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Paul R. LePage, Governor of the State of Maine, hereby order as follows:

1. Each State agency shall issue a "Suicide Awareness and Prevention" policy ("Policy"). The Policy shall be reviewed, updated, and re-issued annually during the month of September, Suicide Prevention Month.
2. Each State agency shall implement the Policy via employee training delivered in partnership with the National Association of Mental Illness Maine.

3. Each State agency shall post, in a conspicuous location, information about suicide prevention and available community resources.

The provisions of this Executive Order are not intended to alter any existing collective bargaining agreements or to supersede applicable laws. Any costs to State agencies for implementing this Order shall be utilized with existing resources.

The effective date of the Executive Order is September 10, 2013.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Paul R. LePage". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

Paul R. LePage, Governor