



"Saving Lives in Tennessee"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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*Governor Lee Support the expansion of the state's partnership with the for
Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN)*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN) applauds Gov. Bill Lee's leadership and immediate attention to funding urgent initiatives for mental health and suicide prevention efforts upon taking Office.

<https://www.tn.gov/governor/news/2019/2/26/gov--bill-lee-announces-initiatives-for-mental-health-and-suicide-prevention-efforts--.html>

TSPN is pleased to announce that its strategic plan to refine and deepen outreach of its national model of prevention-intervention-postvention to reduce stigma and save lives has received the endorsement of the Governor. The Governor's comprehensive and inclusive multi-prong approach assures sustainability of various programs and services proposed for citizens in dire need of assistance to live out their lives.

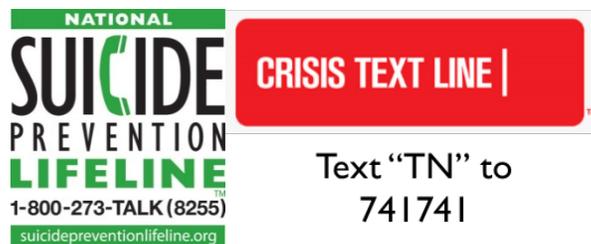
TSPN welcomes the proposed funding investment to expand its statewide infrastructure platform. TSPN's leadership is deeply uplifted and inspired by this new funding and will continue to leverage and strengthen the public-private partnership mechanisms to seek innovative ways to increase the quality of life of all Tennesseans.

TSPN's Executive Director, Scott Ridgway, MS, is excited about this increase in opportunity, noting that "with the continued support of this administration, TSPN and its volunteers will be able to reach more Tennesseans than ever. The Governor believes in our

Network, he has seen our outcomes, he sees the passion of our Network and Advisory Council appointed by his office, and we are thankful for his support.”

Each day we lose three Tennesseans to suicide, now the ninth leading cause of death in Tennessee. In 2017, there were 142 youth deaths by suicide, representing the ten to twenty-four (10-24) age group, with 51 of these representing children between the ages of ten to seventeen (10-17). Suicide by children increased by 24.4 percent from 2016 to 2017; and more alarmingly, suicide by children increased by 54.5 percent from 2015 to 2017. The Tennessee Department of Health's Office of Health Statistics reports there were 1,163 recorded suicide deaths in Tennessee in 2017, up from 1,110 the previous year.

If you or a loved one are having thoughts of suicide, please reach out to one of the many crisis resources including the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-TALK (8255)), Crisis Text Line (text ‘TN’ to 741741), or the State Crisis line (1-855-CRISIS-1).



TTY line: 1-800-799-4TTY (4889)

For non-emergency information on suicide prevention, contact the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network at (615) 297-1077 or tspn@tspn.org. More information about TSPN is available at the agency website (www.tspn.org).

TSPN is the statewide public-private organization responsible for implementing the Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention. TSPN and its volunteers work across the state to organize activities & projects promoting suicide prevention awareness, providing suicide prevention & crisis intervention training to community organizations, and conducting postvention sessions for schools & organizations after suicides occur.