

Kevin A. Marshall  
Co-Chair

Deborah K. Martin  
Co-Chair



P.O. Box 119  
Barnstable, Massachusetts  
02630

[www.suicideispreventable.net](http://www.suicideispreventable.net)

August 3, 2018

Dear Board of Selectmen:

Each year, we lose more than thirty Cape & Island residents to suicide. For each of these suicide deaths, it is estimated more than thirty people are affected, six of them profoundly. Suicide is a public health issue in our communities; and it is preventable.

In recognition of National Suicide Prevention Month, the Cape & Islands Suicide Prevention Coalition is once again seeking to have the week of September 9<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 named "Suicide Prevention Awareness Week" in all of the Cape and Islands towns.

We aim to recognize this painful and often hidden part of our communities, to demonstrate our commitment to suicide prevention, and to send a message of hope to those struggling, grieving, or affected in any way by suicide. We know that by decreasing the stigma that surrounds suicide, we increase the likelihood that someone will reach out for help.

Please accept this proclamation request for the selectman's agenda for an early September or late August meeting (Sample proclamation wording is attached) we appreciate your consideration for this request, and look forward to hearing from you.

The proclamation can be emailed to me at [suicideprevention@capecoalition.com](mailto:suicideprevention@capecoalition.com) or mailed to me at: Cape and Islands Suicide Prevention Coalition, P.O. Box 119, Barnstable, MA 02630

Warm Regards,

David Araujo Jr. LMHC  
Cape & Islands Suicide Prevention Coalition



*PROCLAMATION  
SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK*

*WHEREAS*, in the United States, one person dies by suicide every 12 minutes and 121 people die by suicide each day; and

*WHEREAS*, 20 veterans die by suicide each day; and

*WHEREAS*, suicide is the second leading cause of death for Massachusetts residents ages 15-44 and the suicide rate on the Cape and Islands is 1.4 times higher than the State average; and

*WHEREAS*, suicide is a tragic and disruptive event for families and communities ~ it is estimated that annually, there are 6.3 million suicide loss survivors who have lost a loved one to suicide; and

*WHEREAS*, suicide is a public health issue and a community concern, and through increased education and awareness of the issue a great number of suicides can be prevented;

*THEREFORE*, we do hereby officially designate the week of September 09 - 15, 2018 as "*SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK*" in the Town of XXXX MA, Barnstable County.