

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2201

October 6, 2020

Governor Gretchen Whitmer  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer:

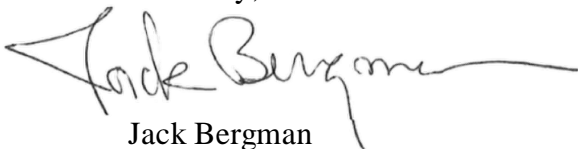
Following the close of National Suicide Prevention Month this September, I write to ask for your help in continuing this spirit of lifesaving advocacy, especially on behalf of our Nation's Veterans in Michigan. I encourage you to join the more than 40 states and territories which have already signed the "President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide" (PREVENTS) Proclamation.

The PREVENTS Task Force was established when President Donald Trump signed [Executive Order 13861](#) in March 2019, and it is chaired by Director of the Domestic Policy Council Brooke Rollins and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie. In June 2020, the Task Force released its Roadmap, which details a plan to "change the culture surrounding mental health and suicide prevention through enhanced community integration, prioritized research activities, and implementation strategies that emphasize improved overall health and well-being." You can read more about PREVENTS at [va.gov/PREVENTS/](http://va.gov/PREVENTS/).

In my role representing Michigan's First District, I was recently honored to be named a PREVENTS Task Force National Ambassador, alongside Lead Ambassador Second Lady Karen Pence. PREVENTS is about becoming more comfortable with the topic of suicide and adopting a holistic health approach to preventing suicide. We have a great opportunity before us to mobilize together against the suicide crisis and its impact on our at-risk Veterans, so many of whom are our neighbors here in Michigan.

The success of the Roadmap depends on a comprehensive community effort and the engagement of strategic partners like governors and mayors. The majority of U.S. states and territories have signed the PREVENTS Proclamation to commit to supporting this initiative. On behalf of the men and women who served our Nation but continue to struggle internally, I hope you will take the PREVENTS Pledge, sign the Proclamation, and use your position to spread and act on this innovative suicide prevention message. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress

