



**PROCLAMATION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO**

**WHEREAS**, September is known throughout the United States as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and is intended to help promote awareness surrounding each of the Suicide Prevention resources available to us and our community; and

**WHEREAS**, our goal is to learn how to help those around us and how to talk about suicide without increasing the risk of harm; and

**WHEREAS**, suicidal thoughts can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, race, orientation, income level, religion, or background; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the United States Center for Disease Control, each year more than 41,000 people die by suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, Archuleta County is no different than any other community in the country, but chooses to publicly state and place its full support behind local educators, mental health professionals, athletic coaches, scout leaders, peace officers, and parents as partners in supporting our community in simply being available to one another; and

**WHEREAS**, organizations like the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) are on the front lines of a battle that many still refuse to discuss in public, as suicide and mental illness remain too much a forbidden topic about which to speak openly; and

**WHEREAS**, every member of our community should understand that throughout life's struggles, we all need the occasional reminder that we are all silently fighting our own battles.

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved that we, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2019, as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Archuleta County, Colorado and we encourage all residents to take the time to inquire as to the wellbeing of their family, friends, and neighbors over the next few days and to genuinely convey their appreciation for their existence by any gesture they deem appropriate. A simple phone call, message, handshake or hug can go a long way towards helping someone realize that suicide is not the answer.

Approved and Adopted in Pagosa Springs, Archuleta County, Colorado this 17<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019.

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Ronnie Maez, Chairman  
Archuleta Board of County Commissioners