

EXECUTIVE ORDER
NUMBER SIXTY-THREE

TO: HEADS OF ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

RE: ESTABLISHING THE FIREARM SUICIDE PREVENTION TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, suicide takes the lives of over 42,000 people in the United States each year and is the 10th ranking cause of death in America and the 2nd ranking cause of death for young people; and

WHEREAS, the impact of suicide can have a tremendous and lasting effect on the surviving families, friends and communities; and

WHEREAS, firearms are the most common instrument of death by suicide, accounting for a 49.9% of all suicide deaths; and

WHEREAS, veteran suicide is a grave concern, with the military suicide rate double that of their civilian counterparts and accounting for 8,000 veteran deaths annually; and

WHEREAS, suicide is a preventable cause of death when the right resources and services are in place; and

WHEREAS, in March 2016, the Washington State Legislature passed legislation to raise awareness and increase suicide prevention education among firearm owners by working closely with firearms dealers and ranges;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JACK A. MARKELL, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Delaware, do hereby declare and order the following:

1. The Firearm Suicide Prevention Task Force (hereinafter, the “Task Force”) is hereby established to raise public awareness and increase suicide prevention education.
2. The focus of the Task Force’s study, findings, and recommendations include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Examining the current outreach, education and training about suicide to firearm owners.

b. Reviewing models and data from other state and local governments on effective public strategies for suicide prevention among firearm owners.

c. Developing recommendations to reduce suicides by firearms in Delaware.

d. Reviewing ways to connect mental health resources with at-risk populations.

e. Engaging firearm advocates, dealers and clubs in suicide prevention efforts.

3. The Firearm Suicide Prevention Task Force shall be composed of, at least, the following 17 members:

a. Three representatives of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, one of whom shall be appointed vice-chair of the Task Force by the Speaker of the House.

b. Three representatives of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore, one of whom shall be appointed vice-chair of the Task Force by the President Pro Tempore.

c. Two members of the public appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be appointed chair of the Task Force by the Governor.

d. The President of the Delaware Sportsman Association;

e. The chair of the Commission of Veterans Affairs;

f. The Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services;

g. The Secretary of the Department of Children, Youth and Families;

h. The Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control;

i. Two Delaware firearm dealers appointed by the Governor; and

j. Two representatives of suicide prevention organizations, one appointed by the Speaker of the House and one appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

4. Additional members may be appointed by the Governor.

5. Members serving by virtue of position may appoint a designee to serve in their stead and at their pleasure. All members shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing authority.

6. The House of Representatives shall assign reasonable and necessary support staff for the Task Force.

7. The Task Force shall convene in September 2016 and shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the members of the Delaware General Assembly & the Delaware Suicide Prevention Coalition by January 1, 2017.

8. This Task Force shall be terminated on January 2, 2017, if not reconstituted by further Executive Order.

9. Nothing in this Order is to be construed to create a private right of action to enforce its terms.

APPROVED this 23rd day of September, 2016

Governor

ATTEST:

Secretary of State