



# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Over 30,000 people of all ages commit suicide in the United States every year; and suicide is the second leading cause of death of teenagers, and the eighth leading cause of death for all people; and
- WHEREAS: We need to reeducate a public that has historically been told that loving, understanding, talking and careful listening will prevent suicide, when, in fact, suicidal people need medical care; and
- WHEREAS: What are called mental illnesses are actually brain diseases, and there is a direct and proven relationship between brain diseases and suicide; and
- WHEREAS: There is a "massive reservoir of ignorance" about brain diseases, with 71% of Americans believing that a brain disease is an emotional weakness, 45% believing a brain disease is chosen and can be willed away, and only 10% knowing that brain diseases are treatable with medicines and psychotherapy; and
- WHEREAS: Of the 500 Minnesota suicides each year about 10% will have had a diagnosis of manic-depression or schizophrenia, but the vast majority will result from unrecognized, undiagnosed and untreated major depression; and
- WHEREAS: Only \$15 per patient is spent for brain disease research compared with \$170 per patient for cancer, and \$3,000 per patient for AIDS; and
- WHEREAS: Those grieving a suicide death are often blamed, shunned, implicated, and labeled "dysfunctional" or "sick" families, and instead are entitled to recover from grief as others do without the blame, guilt, stigma and the tarnishing of the reputation of their loved one; and
- WHEREAS: The goal of SUICIDE AWARENESS/VOICES OF EDUCATION (SA/VE) is to bring visibility to our cause, educate the public, attract new members, and make a statement that we reject and throw off the stigma imposed on us, and contradict those who say we should grieve in silence and shame; and
- WHEREAS: Another goal is to raise the level of education of all professionals who diagnose and treat brain diseases, and to create common knowledge among the general public of the symptoms of these diseases; and
- WHEREAS: President George Bush has proclaimed 1990-2000 as the Decade of the Brain;
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rudy Perpich, Governor of the State of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim April 28-May 4, 1990 to be

## S U I C I D E   A W A R E N E S S   W E E K

in Minnesota.

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
FILED

APR 27 1990

*Jan Anderson Grove*  
Secretary of State

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this sixth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety and of the State the one hundred thirty-first.



*Rudy Perpich*  
GOVERNOR

*Jan Anderson Grove*

SECRETARY OF STATE

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