



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, in the United States, firearm fatalities, which include unintentional firearm fatalities, suicides involving firearms, and homicides involving firearms, are the second leading cause of death among people ages 15 to 24; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, 48,830 people died by firearm related injury in 2021 including 578 in New Mexico and the economic cost of firearm injury in 2020 was estimated at over \$483 billion; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks 3rd highest in the nation for age-adjusted firearm injury rates (27.8 per 100,000), which is over 90% higher than the national average (14.6 per 100,000) and there were 99 more firearm deaths in 2021 than 2020, a 21% increase over a single year; and

WHEREAS, in New Mexico, suicide is the second leading cause of death for people ages 15-24 and ages 25-34; of the suicides in these groups 57% and 51% involved firearms, respectively and in New Mexico, more than 86% of firearm related suicide fatalities in 2021 were men; and

WHEREAS, in New Mexico, the number of firearm related homicide victims increased by 60% for American Indian or Alaska Natives, 50% for Blacks, and over 50% for whites between 2020 to 2021; and

WHEREAS, most firearm injuries can be prevented through a combination of policy, education, safety engineering, and distribution of safety devices and gun owners can prevent firearm injury by practicing safe firearm storage, which includes keeping ammunition locked separately from the firearm, using gunlocks, and locking firearm cabinets to prevent children and adolescents from having access; and

WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico is committed to creating environments which promote safety and well-being for all New Mexicans and hospitals, state agencies, and community organizations are committed to their crucial roles in reducing firearm injuries and deaths by promoting evidence-based injury prevention policies and practices; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for greater capacity-building and community collaboration to reduce the burden of firearm injury in New Mexico.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim the month of June 2023 as:

“Gun Violence Awareness Month”

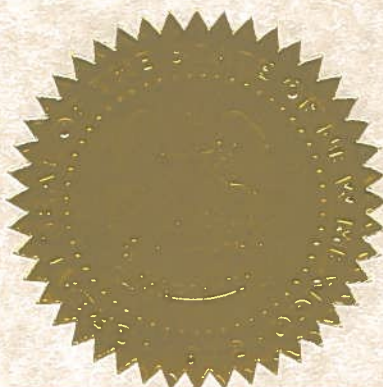
throughout the state of New Mexico.

Attest:

Maggie Toulouse Oliver
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this
25th day of April 2023.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the State of New Mexico.



Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor