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Dear Partner:

Thank you for agreeing to partner with the Safer Homes Collaborative to raise awareness about suicide prevention among your staff, customers and the gun owning community. The Safer Homes Collaborative is a joint effort between the gun owning and suicide prevention communities to incorporate suicide prevention into gun-safety conversations that retailers, shooting range operators, firearm safety instructors and gun owners are already having.

Suicide accounts for nearly two-thirds of all firearm deaths in the U.S. and Missouri. Nearly 3,000 of the 5,000 Missourians who died by suicide in the last five years used a firearm to end their life. Most people attempt suicide by overdosing or ingesting poisons. However, most people who attempt suicide by firearm are the least likely to survive their attempt. Many people believe that suicide cannot be prevented; if someone is determined to end their life they will find a way. In some cases that may be true, but research on suicide has demonstrated that a suicide crisis is usually very brief - as brief as 10 minutes to 1 hour. Most people who attempt suicide and survive do not go on to die by suicide. If there is time and distance between the person at risk for suicide and the most lethal means, firearms, lives can be saved.

You have been provided with a toolkit to help you, your employees and customers develop a basic understanding of suicide, how to recognize the warning signs, how to assist individuals who may be contemplating ending their lives, and ideas for temporarily limiting access to firearms until the suicide crisis ends. Please display these materials in your place of business where they can be accessible to the public.

The toolkit contains the following items:

- **1 - Firearms and Suicide Prevention Tips and FAQ's for staff education,**
- **1- Poster – to display in your business,**
- **1 - Brochure rack,**
- **40 - 11 Commandments of Gun Safety**
- **20 - National Suicide Prevention Lifeline wallet cards, and**
- **20 – National Suicide Prevention Lifeline magnets**

In addition to this toolkit, we invite you to participate in a free, one-hour training in CALM – Conversations on Access to Lethal Means, which has been specially developed for the gun owning community to enhance their awareness about suicide and how to have conversations about safe gun storage during suicide crises.

If you would like to participate in a CALM training would like additional materials to display in your place of business, or would like to become a part of the Safer Home Collaborative project team, please contact us at Safer Homes Collaborative.

Sincerely,
Katie Ellison
Safer Homes Collaborative
Project Director