

By Senator Saunders

25-1869-99

1 Senate Resolution No. ____

2 A resolution recognizing suicide as a state

3 problem and encouraging initiatives aimed at

4 preventing suicide.

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6 WHEREAS, suicide, the ninth leading cause of all deaths

7 in the United States and the third such cause for young

8 persons ages 15 through 24, claims more than 31,000 lives

9 annually nationwide, and

10 WHEREAS, suicide attempts, estimated to exceed 750,000

11 annually nationwide, adversely affect the lives of millions of

12 family members, including many Floridians, and

13 WHEREAS, suicide annually causes more than 200,000

14 family members nationwide, including many Floridians, to mourn

15 a tragic death, and

16 WHEREAS, the suicide rate per 100,000 persons has

17 remained relatively stable over the past 40 years for the

18 general population, but that rate has nearly tripled for young

19 persons and is highest for adults over 65, and

20 WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental illness

21 works against suicide prevention by keeping persons who are at

22 risk of committing suicide from seeking lifesaving help, and

23 WHEREAS, the stigma associated with suicide seriously

24 inhibits surviving family members from regaining meaningful

25 lives, and

26 WHEREAS, suicide deaths impose a huge unrecognized and

27 unmeasured economic burden on the State of Florida in terms of

28 potential years of life lost, medical costs incurred, and work

29 time lost by mourners, and

30 WHEREAS, suicide is a complex, multifaceted biological,

31 sociological, psychological, and societal problem, and

1 WHEREAS, many suicides are currently preventable, and
2 there is an urgent need for the development of more effective
3 suicide-prevention programs, and

4 WHEREAS, suicide-prevention opportunities continue to
5 increase due to advances in clinical research, treatments for
6 mental disorders, neuroscience, and the development of
7 community-based initiatives that await evaluation, and

8 WHEREAS, suicide-prevention efforts should be
9 encouraged to the maximum extent possible, NOW, THEREFORE,

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11 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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13 That the Florida Senate recognizes suicide as a state
14 problem and declares suicide prevention to be a state
15 priority; acknowledges that no single suicide-prevention
16 program or effort will be appropriate for all populations or
17 communities; and encourages initiatives dedicated to
18 preventing suicide, responding to people who are at risk for
19 suicide and people who have attempted suicide, promoting safe
20 and effective treatment for persons who are at risk for
21 suicidal behavior, supporting people who have lost someone to
22 suicide, and developing an effective state strategy for the
23 prevention of suicide.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body encourages the
25 development and promotion of accessible and affordable mental
26 health services that would enable all persons who are at risk
27 for suicide to obtain such services without fear of any
28 stigma.

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