

By Representative Arnall

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House Resolution

A resolution encouraging suicide prevention efforts.

WHEREAS, suicide, the eighth leading cause of all deaths in the United States and the third leading cause for young persons ages 15 through 24, annually claims over 31,000 lives nationwide, and

WHEREAS, each year, suicide attempts, estimated to exceed 750,000 nationally, adversely impact the lives of millions of family members and cause over 186,000, including many Floridians, to mourn a tragic suicide death for the first time, and

WHEREAS, the suicide rate per 100,000 persons has remained relatively stable over the past 40 years for the general population, but that rate has nearly quadrupled for young persons and is highest for adults over 65, and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental illness works against suicide prevention by keeping persons at risk of committing suicide from seeking lifesaving help and seriously inhibits surviving family members from regaining meaningful lives, and

WHEREAS, suicide deaths impose a huge unrecognized and unmeasured economic burden on the State of Florida in terms of potential years of life lost and medical costs incurred, and

WHEREAS, suicide is a complex, multifaceted, biological, sociological, psychological, and societal problem, and

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

1 WHEREAS, suicide prevention opportunities continue to
2 increase due to advances in clinical research, mental disorder
3 treatments, neuroscience, and the development of
4 community-based initiatives that await evaluation, and

5 WHEREAS, suicide prevention efforts should be
6 encouraged to the maximum extent possible, NOW, THEREFORE,

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8 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
9 Florida:

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11 That the House of Representatives of the State of
12 Florida hereby endorses the need for the development of more
13 effective suicide prevention programs and encourages all
14 Floridians to increase their awareness of this pervasive
15 problem and the various suicide prevention efforts available.