

By Senator Saunders

25-1808-02

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 eighth leading cause of all
7 deaths in the United States and the third such cause for young
8 persons ages 15 through 24, claims more than 30,000 lives
9 annually nationwide, and

10 WHEREAS, suicide attempts, estimated to exceed 730,000
11 annually nationwide, adversely affect the lives of millions of
12 family members, friends, and co-workers, including many
13 Floridians, and

14 WHEREAS, suicide annually causes more than 200,000
15 family members nationwide, including many Floridians, to mourn
16 a tragic death, and

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

21 WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental illness
22 works against suicide prevention by keeping persons who are at
23 risk of committing suicide from seeking lifesaving help, and

24 WHEREAS, the stigma associated with suicide seriously
25 inhibits surviving family members from regaining meaningful
26 lives, and

27 WHEREAS, suicide attempts and deaths impose a huge
28 unrecognized and unmeasured economic burden on the State of
29 Florida in terms of potential years of life lost, medical
30 costs incurred, and work time lost by mourners, and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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