

By Representative Rich

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House Resolution

A resolution recognizing suicide as a state problem and encouraging initiatives aimed at preventing suicide.

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

WHEREAS, suicide attempts, estimated to exceed 730,000 annually nationwide, adversely affect the lives of millions of family members, friends, and coworkers, including many Floridians, and

WHEREAS, suicide annually causes more than 180,000 family members nationwide, including many Floridians, to mourn a tragic death, 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 tripled 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 who are at risk of committing suicide from seeking lifesaving help, and

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

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

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 House of Representatives of the State of
14 Florida:

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

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