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CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Future of Florida's Families Committee recommends the
2 following:

3
4 **Council/Committee Substitute**

5 Remove the entire bill and insert:

6 A bill to be entitled

7 An act relating to suicide prevention; creating s.
8 397.3335, F.S.; creating the Statewide Office for Suicide
9 Prevention in the Office of Drug Control; providing the
10 goals and objectives of the office; creating the position
11 of statewide coordinator for the statewide office,
12 contingent upon a specific appropriation; specifying the
13 education and experience requirements for the position of
14 coordinator; detailing the duties and responsibilities of
15 the coordinator; authorizing the Statewide Office for
16 Suicide Prevention to seek and accept grants or funds from
17 any source to support its operation; creating s. 397.3336,
18 F.S.; creating the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council
19 within the Office of Drug Control; providing the scope of
20 activities for the coordinating council; creating an
21 interagency workgroup for state agencies within the
22 coordinating council in order to coordinate state agency
23 plans for suicide prevention; authorizing the coordinating

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24 council to assemble an ad hoc committee to advise the
25 coordinating council; requiring a report to the Governor
26 and Legislature; providing for membership on and meetings
27 of the coordinating council; providing per diem and travel
28 expenses for coordinating council members; providing an
29 appropriation and authorizing a position; providing an
30 effective date.

31

32 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

33

34 Section 1. Section 397.3335, Florida Statutes, is created
35 to read:

36 397.3335 Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention.--

37 (1) (a) The Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention is
38 created in the Office of Drug Control within the Executive
39 Office of the Governor.

40 (b) The statewide office shall develop a network of
41 community-based programs to improve suicide prevention
42 initiatives. The network shall identify and work to eliminate
43 barriers that impede providing suicide prevention services to
44 individuals who are at risk of suicide.

45 (c) The network of community-based programs shall consist
46 of stakeholders advocating suicide prevention, including, but
47 not limited to, not-for-profit suicide prevention organizations,
48 faith-based suicide prevention organizations, law enforcement
49 agencies, first responders to emergency calls, suicide
50 prevention community coalitions, schools and universities,

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51 mental health agencies, substance abuse agencies, health care
52 providers, and school personnel.

53 (2) The statewide office shall, within available
54 resources:

55 (a) Implement the statewide plan prepared by the Suicide
56 Prevention Coordinating Council.

57 (b) Build a network of community-based programs to
58 integrate suicide prevention initiatives into program
59 activities.

60 (c) Increase public awareness concerning topics relating
61 to suicide prevention.

62 (d) Coordinate education and training curricula in suicide
63 prevention efforts for law enforcement personnel, first
64 responders to emergency calls, health care providers, school
65 employees, and other persons who may have contact with persons
66 at risk of suicide.

67 (e) Direct an interagency workgroup within the Suicide
68 Prevention Coordinating Council to prepare a suicide prevention
69 communication plan among state agencies. The communication plan
70 must be incorporated into the council's statewide plan.

71 (3) Contingent upon a specific appropriation, the director
72 of the Office of Drug Control shall employ a coordinator for the
73 Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention. In selecting the
74 coordinator, the director of the Office of Drug Control should
75 consider whether a candidate has:

76 (a) The following education and employment experience:

77 1. A bachelor's degree in social work, psychology,
78 sociology, counseling, public health, or a closely related field

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79 and 5 or more years of work experience in behavioral health care
80 or a closely related field.

81 2. A master's or a doctoral degree in social work,
82 psychology, sociology, counseling, public health, or a closely
83 related field and 2 or more years of work experience in
84 behavioral health or a closely related field.

85 (b) The following skills:

86 1. Significant professional experience in social services,
87 mental health, or a closely related field.

88 2. Knowledge of group behavior and dynamics, methods of
89 facilitation, community development, behavioral health treatment
90 and prevention programs, and community-based behavioral health
91 problems.

92 3. Experience in working with community groups and
93 constituents that are diverse and representative of the gender,
94 ethnic, and racial populations in this state.

95 4. Experience in writing grant proposals and technical
96 reports.

97 (4) The coordinator shall work under the direction of the
98 director of the Office of Drug Control to achieve the goals and
99 objectives set forth in this section. The coordinator shall:

100 (a) Facilitate an interagency workgroup within the Suicide
101 Prevention Coordinating Council to integrate state agency
102 programs for suicide prevention into a unified statewide plan.

103 (b) Review local, state, and national suicide prevention
104 programs for examples of innovative suicide prevention models.
105 If innovative models are discovered, the coordinator shall
106 prepare a report to describe the feasibility of implementing

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107 some or all of the innovative models in this state. The report
108 must be filed with the President of the Senate, the Speaker of
109 the House of Representatives, and the Suicide Prevention
110 Coordinating Council after review and approval of the report by
111 the director of the Office of Drug Control. The innovative
112 models, and the feasibility of their implementation in this
113 state, shall be evaluated by the Suicide Prevention Coordinating
114 Council, which shall file a report with the President of the
115 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the
116 Governor if the council determines that legislation is necessary
117 to implement an innovative model.

118 (c) Develop and maintain an Internet website with links to
119 appropriate suicide prevention resource documents, suicide
120 hotlines, state and community mental health agencies, and
121 appropriate national suicide prevention organizations.

122 (d) Identify and disseminate information regarding crisis
123 services for suicide prevention.

124 (e) Join with stakeholders in suicide prevention to
125 develop public awareness and media campaigns in each county
126 directed towards persons who are at risk of suicide.

127 (f) Provide technical assistance to educational activities
128 for residents of this state relating to suicide prevention.

129 (g) Cooperate with school districts to develop training
130 and counseling programs for school-based suicide prevention
131 activities. The coordinator and school districts must also
132 develop a method by which to evaluate each prevention training
133 and counseling program.

134 (h) Join with stakeholders in suicide prevention to
 135 develop education and training programs for suicide prevention.
 136 The education and training programs must be directed first to
 137 persons who have face-to-face contact with individuals who may
 138 be at risk of suicide. The training must assist persons to
 139 recognize when an individual is at risk of suicide and how to
 140 properly refer those individuals to treatment or support
 141 services.

142 (i) Review current research data and findings to identify
 143 at-risk populations, factors relating to suicide, and suicide
 144 prevention activities and disseminate this research to the
 145 Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council to develop strategies
 146 for preventing suicide.

147 (j) Develop and submit proposals to agencies of the state,
 148 the Federal Government, and nongovernmental organizations for
 149 funding suicide prevention activities.

150 (5) The Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention may seek
 151 and accept grants or funds from any federal, state, or local
 152 source to support its operation and defray the expenses incurred
 153 in its operation and implementation.

154 Section 2. Section 397.3336, Florida Statutes, is created
 155 to read:

156 397.3336 Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council;
 157 creation; membership; duties.--There is created within the
 158 Office of Drug Control a Suicide Prevention Coordinating
 159 Council. The council shall develop strategies for preventing
 160 suicide.

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161 (1) SCOPE OF ACTIVITY.--The Suicide Prevention
162 Coordinating Council is a coordinating council as defined in s.
163 20.03(9) and shall:

164 (a) Advise the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention
165 regarding the development of a statewide plan for suicide
166 prevention, with the guiding principle being that suicide is a
167 preventable problem. The statewide plan must:

168 1. Align and provide direction for statewide suicide
169 prevention initiatives.

170 2. Establish partnerships with state and private agencies
171 to promote public awareness of suicide prevention.

172 3. Address specific populations in this state who are at
173 risk for suicide.

174 4. Improve access to help individuals in acute situations.

175 5. Identify resources to support the implementation of the
176 statewide plan.

177 (b) Create an interagency workgroup within the council in
178 order to incorporate state agency plans for suicide prevention
179 into the statewide plan. The interagency workgroup must include,
180 but need not be limited to:

181 1. The Secretary of Elderly Affairs, or his or her
182 designee.

183 2. The Secretary of Health, or his or her designee.

184 3. The Commissioner of Education, or his or her designee.

185 4. The Secretary of Health Care Administration, or his or
186 her designee.

187 5. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice, or his or her
188 designee.

189 6. The executive director of the Department of Law
190 Enforcement, or his or her designee.

191 7. The Secretary of Children and Family Services, or his
192 or her designee.

193 8. The Secretary of Corrections, or his or her designee.

194 9. The executive director of the Department of Veterans'
195 Affairs, or his or her designee.

196 10. The director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation,
197 or his or her designee.

198 (c) Assemble an ad hoc advisory committee with membership
199 from outside the council when necessary in order for the council
200 to receive advice and assistance in carrying out its
201 responsibilities.

202 (d) Advise the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention.

203 (e) Make findings and recommendations regarding suicide
204 prevention programs and activities. The council shall prepare an
205 annual report and present it to the Governor, the President of
206 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by
207 January 1, 2007, and each year thereafter. The annual report
208 must describe the status of existing and planned initiatives
209 identified in the statewide plan for suicide prevention and any
210 recommendations arising therefrom.

211 (2) MEMBERSHIP.--The Suicide Prevention Coordinating
212 Council shall consist of 26 members.

213 (a) Twelve members shall be appointed by the director of
214 the Office of Drug Control and shall represent the following
215 organizations:

216 1. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation,
217 Inc., described in s. 394.655.

218 2. The Florida Association of School Psychologists.

219 3. The Florida Sheriffs Association.

220 4. The Suicide Prevention Action Network USA.

221 5. The Florida Initiative for Suicide Prevention.

222 6. The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition.

223 7. The Alzheimer's Association.

224 8. The Florida School Board Association.

225 9. Volunteer Florida, Inc.

226 10. Florida AARP.

227 11. The Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association.

228 12. The Florida Counseling Association.

229 (b) The following state officials shall be appointed to
230 the coordinating council:

231 1. The Secretary of Elderly Affairs, or his or her
232 designee.

233 2. The Secretary of Health, or his or her designee.

234 3. The Commissioner of Education, or his or her designee.

235 4. The Secretary of Health Care Administration, or his or
236 her designee.

237 5. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice, or his or her
238 designee.

239 6. The Secretary of Corrections, or his or her designee.

240 7. The executive director of the Department of Law
241 Enforcement, or his or her designee.

242 8. The executive director of the Department of Veterans'
243 Affairs, or his or her designee.

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244 9. The Secretary of Children and Family Services, or his
245 or her designee.

246 10. The director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation,
247 or his or her designee.

248 (c) The Governor shall appoint four additional members to
249 the coordinating council. The appointees must have expertise
250 critical to the prevention of suicide or represent an
251 organization that is not already represented on the coordinating
252 council.

253 (d) Council members shall be appointed to terms of 4 years
254 each. Any vacancy on the coordinating council shall be filled in
255 the same manner as the original appointment, and any member
256 appointed to fill a vacancy occurring because of death,
257 resignation, or ineligibility for membership shall serve only
258 for the unexpired term of the member's predecessor. A member is
259 eligible for reappointment.

260 (e) Members of the coordinating council shall serve
261 without compensation. Any member of the coordinating council who
262 is a public employee is entitled to reimbursement for per diem
263 and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061.

264 (3) MEETINGS.--

265 (a) The director of the Office of Drug Control shall be a
266 nonvoting, ex officio member of the coordinating council and
267 shall act as chair.

268 (b) The coordinating council shall meet at least quarterly
269 or upon the call of the chair. The council meetings may be held
270 via teleconference or other electronic means.

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271 (c) Public organizations shall participate and cooperate
272 with the coordinating council.

273 Section 3. One full-time equivalent position is authorized
274 and the sum of \$100,000 is appropriated from the General Revenue
275 Fund to the Office of Drug Control for the purpose of
276 implementing this act during the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

277 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.