

By: Hunter

H.C.R. No. 63

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Suicide rates rose across the United States from  
2 2000 to 2020, and the State of Texas saw a nearly 37 percent  
3 increase during that period; and

4 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and  
5 Prevention, suicide is the 12th leading cause of death in the  
6 nation, claiming more than 45,900 lives in 2020 alone, and  
7 provisional data indicates that the number and rate of suicides in  
8 the U.S. increased by four percent from 2020 to 2021; moreover,  
9 there are millions of adults who have seriously considered or  
10 attempted suicide, and the stigma associated with mental health  
11 conditions often prevents these individuals from seeking the care  
12 they need; and

13 WHEREAS, There has also been an alarming increase in the  
14 number of suicide attempts and deaths by suicide in Texas  
15 correctional institutions, with little understanding of what the  
16 cause might be; and

17 WHEREAS, While the social impact of these deaths is  
18 undeniable but difficult to quantify, the economic toll of suicide  
19 on society is clear, with suicides and suicide attempts costing the  
20 nation approximately \$93.5 billion annually in lifetime medical and  
21 work-loss costs; and

22 WHEREAS, All 50 states have a suicide prevention plan, but  
23 most states, including Texas, do not require suicide prevention  
24 training for health care professionals; evidence shows that states

1 and communities can do more to identify and support people at risk  
2 of suicide by teaching coping skills, promoting safe and supportive  
3 environments, and connecting people to effective and coordinated  
4 mental and physical health care; and

5 WHEREAS, Suicide is a public health issue of vital importance  
6 to all Texans, and the development of suicide prevention strategies  
7 would help to save lives; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the 88th Legislature of the State of Texas  
9 hereby request the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House  
10 of Representatives to create a joint interim committee to study  
11 suicide prevention in Texas, including in Texas correctional  
12 institutions; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the committee's proceedings and operations be  
14 governed by such general rules and policies for interim committees  
15 as the 88th Texas Legislature may adopt; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the committee shall submit a full report,  
17 including findings and recommendations, to the 89th Texas  
18 Legislature before it convenes in January 2025.