

By: Naishtat

H.C.R. No. 40

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Suicide is a major preventable cause of premature
2 death in the State of Texas; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the latest available figures,
4 approximately 30 Texans attempt suicide every day, and on average,
5 6 attempts are completed; death by one's own hand stands as the 11th
6 leading cause of mortality in the state overall, ranking 7th among
7 men and 14th among women; and

8 WHEREAS, Suicide is the third leading cause of death for
9 young Texans and the second leading cause of death for college-age
10 youth; a large number of suicides occur among the middle-aged as
11 well, while the elderly suffer the highest rate; veterans and
12 active-duty military personnel in Texas are also at high risk for
13 suicide; and

14 WHEREAS, In addition to the personal suffering involved,
15 suicide entails significant social costs; the average medical
16 expense associated with each suicide death is \$4,000, while the
17 medical cost of each suicide attempt averages nearly \$9,000; in
18 addition, the "work loss" cost per suicide death has been
19 calculated at \$1.2 million; and

20 WHEREAS, The causes of suicide are complex and include
21 psychological, biological, and sociological factors; among those
22 who die by suicide, 90 percent are suffering from an underlying
23 mental health or substance abuse condition; the most common mental
24 health problem affecting those who commit suicide is a depressive

1 disorder; sadly, the stigma attached to mental illness often
2 discourages individuals who are afflicted from seeking help; and

3 WHEREAS, Public health researchers, however, consider
4 suicide to be one of the most preventable causes of death;
5 opportunities for reducing the incidence of suicide continue to
6 improve, thanks to advances in neuroscience, progress in diagnosing
7 and treating mental illness, and the growing number of
8 community-based suicide prevention initiatives; and

9 WHEREAS, September 10 is now recognized annually as World
10 Suicide Prevention Day; within this country, the Substance Abuse
11 Mental Health Services Administration, the U.S. Suicide Prevention
12 Resource Center, the American Association of Suicidology, and the
13 American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, together with Mental
14 Health America of Texas and the Texas Suicide Prevention Council,
15 have endorsed the week encompassing September 10 as a time to
16 promote understanding about suicide and to highlight resources for
17 addressing its precipitating causes; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
19 hereby designate the Sunday through Saturday surrounding World
20 Suicide Prevention Day, September 10, each year as Texas Suicide
21 Prevention Week.