86R20493 BK-D

By:  Hunter H.C.R. No. 137

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The observance of National Suicide Prevention Month in September provides a fitting opportunity to heighten understanding of this critical public health issue; and

WHEREAS, Each year in the United States, more than twice as many people die from suicide as from homicide, and suicide has become an issue of ever more pressing concern in recent decades; from 1999 to 2016, rates of suicide rose in nearly every state, and Texas experienced an 18.9 percent increase during that time period; and

WHEREAS, Although suicide is difficult to predict, it is often preceded by warning signs, and sudden changes in mood and behavior can indicate that an individual may need help; the concern expressed by friends, parents, and other family members can make a tremendous difference to someone who is struggling with suicidal thoughts; and

WHEREAS, Evidence shows that suicides can be reduced by teaching coping and problem-solving skills; many individuals can also find relief from depression and other emotional pressures through therapy, and it is vital that the public be made aware of available treatment options, including psychological counseling; and

WHEREAS, Education initiatives can be especially helpful for young people; suicide is the second leading cause of death among primary and secondary students ages 10 and older, and a concerted outreach effort in public schools can be an effective means of engaging students, their families, and the wider community; and

WHEREAS, Suicide exacts a heavy toll on our state, leaving far too many people to cope with the sudden loss of someone they hold dear, and a greater awareness of suicide warning signs and intervention strategies can play an important part in reducing the number of these senseless tragedies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby designate September as Suicide Prevention Month; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That in accordance with the provisions of Section 391.004(d), Government Code, this designation remain in effect until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally passed by the legislature.