

By: Hunter

H.C.R. No. 81

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Suicide rates rose across the United States from  
2 1999 to 2016, and the State of Texas saw a nearly 20 percent  
3 increase during that period; and

4 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and  
5 Prevention, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the  
6 nation, claiming nearly 45,000 lives in 2016 alone; moreover, there  
7 are millions of adults who have seriously considered or attempted  
8 suicide, and the stigma associated with mental health conditions  
9 often prevents these individuals from seeking the care they need;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, While the social impact of these deaths is  
12 undeniable but difficult to quantify, the economic toll of suicide  
13 on society is clear, with suicides and suicide attempts costing the  
14 nation approximately \$70 billion annually in lifetime medical and  
15 work-loss costs; and

16 WHEREAS, All 50 states have a suicide prevention plan, but  
17 most states, including Texas, do not require suicide prevention  
18 training for health care professionals; evidence shows that states  
19 and communities can do more to identify and support people at risk  
20 of suicide by teaching coping skills, promoting safe and supportive  
21 environments, and connecting people to effective and coordinated  
22 mental and physical health care; and

23 WHEREAS, Suicide is a public health issue of vital importance  
24 to all Texans, and the development of suicide prevention strategies

1 would help to save lives; now, therefore, be it

2       RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas  
3 hereby request the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house  
4 of representatives to create a joint interim committee to study  
5 suicide prevention in Texas; and, be it further

6       RESOLVED, That the committee's proceedings and operations be  
7 governed by such general rules and policies for interim committees  
8 as the 86th Texas Legislature may adopt; and, be it further

9       RESOLVED, That the committee shall submit a full report,  
10 including findings and recommendations, to the 87th Texas  
11 Legislature before it convenes in January 2021.