

By: Hunter

H.C.R. No. 137

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, Education initiatives can be especially helpful for
23 young people; suicide is the second leading cause of death among
24 primary and secondary students ages 10 and older, and a concerted

1 outreach effort in public schools can be an effective means of
2 engaging students, their families, and the wider community; and

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

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

11 RESOLVED, That in accordance with the provisions of Section
12 [391.004\(d\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
13 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
14 passed by the legislature.