

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 2110

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Suicide is a complex and multifaceted problem, and
2 its increasing incidence among certain vulnerable groups,
3 including youth and veterans, has become an urgent health care
4 priority; and

5 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
6 Prevention, the national suicide rate for teenagers has nearly
7 tripled since the 1940s; the rate in Texas is nearly double the
8 national average, and suicide is the second leading cause of death
9 among Texans aged 15 to 34; and

10 WHEREAS, Further compounding the problem, many schools
11 across the state have student-to-counselor ratios that greatly
12 exceed the recommendations of the Texas Model for Comprehensive
13 School Counseling Programs adopted by the State Board of Education;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, It is estimated that more than 20 veterans commit
16 suicide every day in the United States, a rate 1.5 times higher than
17 that of the general population; veterans compose 14 percent of all
18 suicide deaths, despite representing only 8 percent of the national
19 population; and

20 WHEREAS, In Texas, the suicide rate among veterans is more
21 than twice that of the state's overall population, and the risk is
22 more pronounced for those who served in recent conflicts, such as
23 the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; suicide among veterans aged 18-34
24 rose by 10 percent between 2006 and 2016, translating to 45 deaths

1 for every 100,000 veterans, the largest increase for any age group;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Many factors impact veterans' mental health and
4 well-being, including family and employment issues and the
5 challenge of reintegrating into civilian society; those men and
6 women who have served our country are in dire need of services to
7 assist with life transitions and the stresses that can arise from
8 them; and

9 WHEREAS, Mental health care for veterans is an area of
10 particular need in our state, and a 2015 report by The University of
11 Texas outlined the benefits of providing coordinated mental health
12 services for Texas veterans; and

13 WHEREAS, In the Coastal Bend of Texas, students, teachers,
14 counselors, administrators, veterans, and community advocates have
15 joined together to study the causes and effects of suicide among
16 veterans and adolescents in the state; the coalition conducted two
17 public forums in the spring of 2019 to focus attention on these
18 issues, and the discussions have resulted in recommendations
19 brought forth for consideration during the 86th Texas Legislature;
20 now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
22 Legislature hereby recognize the participants in the Coastal Bend
23 forums for their efforts to address the tragic problem of suicide in
24 the state and extend sincere appreciation to these caring
25 individuals.