CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Suicide rates rose across the United States from 2000 to 2017, and the State of Texas saw a nearly 36 percent increase during that period; and

WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the nation, claiming more than 48,000 lives in 2018 alone; because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is almost certain there will be a further increase in the number of suicides reported for 2020 and 2021; moreover, there are millions of adults who have seriously considered or attempted suicide, and the stigma associated with mental health conditions often prevents these individuals from seeking the care they need; and

WHEREAS, There has also been an alarming increase in the number of suicide attempts and deaths by suicide in Texas correctional institutions, with little understanding of what the cause might be; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Suicide is a public health issue of vital importance to all Texans, and the development of suicide prevention strategies would help to save lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby request the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of representatives to create a joint interim committee to study suicide prevention in Texas, including in Texas correctional institutions; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the committee's proceedings and operations be governed by such general rules and policies for interim committees as the 87th Texas Legislature may adopt; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the committee shall submit a full report, including findings and recommendations, to the 88th Texas Legislature before it convenes in January 2023.