

By: Hunter

H.C.R. No. 58

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Suicide rates rose across the United States from  
2 2000 to 2017, and the State of Texas saw a nearly 36 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 more than 48,000 lives in 2018 alone; because of  
7 the COVID-19 pandemic, it is almost certain there will be a further  
8 increase in the number of suicides reported for 2020 and 2021;  
9 moreover, there are millions of adults who have seriously  
10 considered or attempted suicide, and the stigma associated with  
11 mental health conditions often prevents these individuals from  
12 seeking the care they need; and

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

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

22 WHEREAS, All 50 states have a suicide prevention plan, but  
23 most states, including Texas, do not require suicide prevention  
24 training for health care professionals; evidence shows that states

1 and communities can do more to identify and support people at risk  
2 of suicide by teaching coping skills, promoting safe and supportive  
3 environments, and connecting people to effective and coordinated  
4 mental and physical health care; and

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

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

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

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