

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

**A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION**

24-46

**IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

May 4, 2021

To recognize the month of September 2021 as “Suicide Prevention Month” and adopt the National Suicide Prevention and Action Month Proclamation.

WHEREAS, the National Suicide Prevention and Action Month Proclamation was created by Yorkville, IL Alderman Joel Frieders as a national effort to raise the visibility of the mental health resources and suicide prevention services available in communities across America.

WHEREAS, the goal of the National Suicide Prevention and Action Month Proclamation is to start the conversation about mental health and the impact of suicide to help destigmatize the conversation and help connect people with the appropriate support services;

WHEREAS, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), suicide is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death among adults, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 34 in the US;

WHEREAS, according to the AFSP, suicide is the 14<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, more than 48,000 people died by suicide across the United States in 2018, with an average of 132 suicides completed daily;

WHEREAS, according to the AFSP, six times as many people died by suicide in the District in 2018 than in alcohol-related motor vehicle accidents -- on average, one person died by suicide every 7 days;

WHEREAS, each and every suicide directly impacts a minimum of 100 additional people, including family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and community members;

WHEREAS, suicide presents a major, preventable public health problem;

WHEREAS, the Council of the District of Columbia places its full support behind those who work in the fields of mental health, education, and law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, global organizations like Hope For The Day (HFTD) serve on the front lines of a war that many still refuse to discuss, as stigma regarding suicide and mental health issues is far too prevalent;

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IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,  
That this resolution may be cited as the “National Suicide Prevention and Action Month  
Recognition Resolution of 2021”

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia hereby recognizes the month of September 2021 as National Suicide Prevention Month, and encourages every District resident to take the time to understand the importance of mental health education and recognize that taking care of ourselves and others includes taking care of mental health;

Sec 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.