

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 152

BY REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize the month of September as "Suicide Prevention Month" in Louisiana to promote suicide prevention and to raise greater awareness of the problem of suicide among military service members.

WHEREAS, suicide affects all races, genders, and age groups with an estimated quarter million people each year that are suicide survivors; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Louisiana ranked fourteenth nationally in the number of reported suicide related deaths; and

WHEREAS, military service members and veterans face an elevated risk of suicide compared to the general population with an estimated twenty-two veterans committing suicide each day nationwide; and

WHEREAS, suicidal behavior is a serious and persistent public health concern with devastating effects on families and communities; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the stigma surrounding suicide, those who are bereaved by suicide are often perceived differently from those who lost a family member through another cause of death; and

WHEREAS, research shows that suicides are preventable and ninety percent of people who die by suicide had a diagnosable psychiatric disorder at the time of death; and

WHEREAS, all people deserve the opportunity to live healthy lives, and no person should have their potential limited because of the lack of mental health support needed; and

WHEREAS, education and awareness are crucial tools that may assist in combating suicide rates in Louisiana and nationwide; and

WHEREAS, research also demonstrates that increased public awareness of the warning signs of suicide and awareness of appropriate and effective intervention strategies reduce suicidal deaths; and

WHEREAS, annual World Suicide Prevention Day is September 10, 2016, and September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month which promotes resources and awareness around the issues of suicide prevention; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana has an opportunity to lead and offer openness and understanding about the causes, effects, and circumstances of Louisiana citizens including military service members and veterans who have contemplated suicide.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate and recognize the month of September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Louisiana to raise public awareness of suicide prevention.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana urges greater attention to military service members and veterans who are suffering with suicide and to the mental health services and suicide prevention programs available to members of military service members and veterans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana encourages initiatives dedicated to preventing suicide, assisting individuals who have attempted suicide, creating safe and effective treatment for those at risk for suicide, and supporting people who have lost someone to suicide.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE