

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

By Staples

A RESOLUTION to recognize teen suicide as a health crisis in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, suicide is the third-leading cause of death for Tennesseans between the ages of ten and nineteen; and

WHEREAS, nationally, suicide rates among youth ages fifteen to twenty-four have increased more than 200 percent in the last fifty years; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, sixty-five Tennesseans between the ages of ten and nineteen died by suicide, an increase of eleven deaths from the record number of suicides reported in 2015; and

WHEREAS, while no single suicide prevention effort is sufficient or appropriate, identification of at-risk youth before suicidal behavior emerges is crucial in combating teen suicide; and

WHEREAS, suicide is not only a mental health issue, but it is also a public health issue; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize teen suicide as a health crisis in Tennessee and acknowledge the need for prevention, research, and creation of a system to address this crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the Department of Health.