

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 343

Supporting the designation of September 17, 2023, as “National Physician Suicide Awareness Day” to raise awareness of, and promote a national discussion about, physician suicide and to reduce the stigma of mental health issues.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. REED) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## RESOLUTION

Supporting the designation of September 17, 2023, as “National Physician Suicide Awareness Day” to raise awareness of, and promote a national discussion about, physician suicide and to reduce the stigma of mental health issues.

Whereas physicians work under intense pressure and are exposed to trauma on the job;

Whereas the risk of suicide within the medical profession is among the highest rates of any occupation;

Whereas each year in the United States roughly 300 to 400 physicians die by suicide;

Whereas the suicide rate—

(1) among male physicians is 1.41 times higher than the general male population; and

(2) among female physicians is even more pronounced, being 2.27 times higher than the general female population;

Whereas difficult working conditions, burdensome administrative tasks, long hours, grief over losing patients, and watching the families of patients suffer add a layer of extreme stress for many frontline workers;

Whereas mental health and physical health are equally important components of overall health;

Whereas there are structural barriers in place that discourage self-care and mental health help-seeking behaviors among physicians; and

Whereas a day of public awareness and education campaigns is held on September 17 each year to shine a light on the tragedy of physician suicide: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) supports the goal of National Physician Suicide Awareness Day to bring national attention to  
3       the mental health crisis affecting physicians in the  
4       United States;

6               (2) dedicates a day of reflection to honor the  
7       memory of physicians who have died by suicide;

8               (3) recognizes the need for greater research  
9       into understanding and addressing the issues surrounding physician suicide, including the barriers to  
10       treatment, help-seeking behaviors to address burn-

1 out, and mental care options to prevent physician  
2 suicide; and

3 (4) encourages the President to issue a procla-  
4 mation calling on the people of the United States to  
5 observe National Physician Suicide Awareness Day  
6 with appropriate awareness and educational activi-  
7 ties.

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