

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11—Senator O’Connell

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Expressing support for efforts in the State of Nevada to develop more effective suicide prevention programs.

WHEREAS, Suicide is the ninth leading cause of death in the United States and ranks third in young persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years; and

WHEREAS, Nationally, 31,000 lives are lost to suicide each year and an estimated 750,000 suicides are attempted; and

WHEREAS, Suicide annually causes over 200,000 family members nationwide, including many Nevadans, to mourn a tragic death from suicide; and

WHEREAS, The rate of suicides per 100,000 persons has remained relatively stable over the past 40 years for the general population, but that rate has nearly tripled for young persons and is the highest ever for adults over the age of 65 years; and

WHEREAS, The stigma associated with mental illness often discourages persons at risk of committing suicide from seeking lifesaving help; and

WHEREAS, The stigma associated with suicide seriously inhibits surviving family members from regaining meaningful lives; and

WHEREAS, Death from suicide in the State of Nevada imposes a considerable economic burden in terms of potential years of life lost, medical costs incurred and workdays lost by mourners; and

WHEREAS, Suicide is a complex, multifaceted biological, sociological, psychological and societal problem; and

WHEREAS, Because many deaths from suicides are preventable, there is an urgent need for the development of more effective suicide prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, Opportunities for the prevention of suicide continue to increase because of advances in clinical research, treatments for mental disorders, neuroscience and the development of community-based initiatives that await evaluation; and

WHEREAS, Efforts to prevent suicide should be encouraged to the maximum extent possible; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the members of the Legislature of the State of Nevada do hereby recognize suicide as a serious problem in this state and declare the prevention of suicide to be a state priority; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this legislative body acknowledges that no single suicide prevention program or effort is appropriate for all populations or communities and therefore encourages community-based initiatives dedicated to:

1. Preventing suicide;
2. Responding to persons at risk for suicide, including those persons who have already attempted suicide;

3. Promoting safe and effective treatment for persons at risk for suicide; and

4. Supporting persons who have lost someone to suicide; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Nevada Legislature encourages the development and promotion of accessible and affordable mental health services that would enable persons at risk for suicide to obtain such services without fear of any stigma.

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