

I would not be available to attend the hearing, but if the following thoughts would be helpful, I would love to have them taken under consideration.

One very early morning, seven years ago I was on my way to Scenectady, NY via route 4. This trip was unplanned and associated with a medical emergency my daughter had experienced.

As I crossed the gorge, I saw a pair of pink shoes on the bridge sidewalk. A few yards away was a car with NH plates parked askew, barely off the road. I am very ashamed to say I did not stop and I did not call 911. All aspects of this experience haunt me still. Yes..a suicide occurred that morning.

No..you can't legislate extreme behavior -or- blame the geography. We can reduce opportunity though.

Mental health care and suicide prevention is very close to my heart. In 2012 we (unexpectedly) lost our son to suicide. He used a different method but the results were devastatingly the same. It is all about impulse and opportunity in the moment. Forcing a potential suicide to think twice at this location, via some kind of barrier/net will take easy opportunity away.

I have a hard time understanding the seemingly superficial opposition -for what ever reason- in limiting access to a high risk area. I can only surmise that they have never been touched by a suicide..via family member, friend, or first responder. Each suicide ripples and touches hundreds of people.

As a side note, I once watched a documentary that focused on suicide survivors who had jumped from the Golden Gate Bridge. All of them..on the way down said they knew they had made a terrible mistake. That says it all.

Thank you and please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

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