

No. R-304. House concurrent resolution designating February 13, 2018 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Day at the State House.

(H.C.R.244)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Whereas, on average, two Vermonters die each week by suicide, and

Whereas, the Vermont Suicide Prevention Center (VTSPC) is a public-private partnership that the Department of Mental Health and the nonprofit Brattleboro-based Center for Health and Learning established to address all aspects of the suicide public health crisis, and

Whereas, the Vermont Suicide Prevention Coalition is a group of over 70 organizations and individuals concerned about suicide, including persons who are survivors of a suicide attempt or family members of persons who died by suicide, and

Whereas, Vermont has the 11th-highest suicide rate among the 50 states, and

Whereas, for the latest year for which data is available, there were 102 suicide deaths in Vermont, and

Whereas, it is estimated that there are 25 attempted suicides for every suicide death, and

Whereas, the Agency of Human Services has established an interdisciplinary Suicide Prevention Data and Surveillance Work Group, and

Whereas, the Vermont All-Payer Model aims to reduce the suicide rate, and

Whereas, the VTSPC is a developer of Umatter Suicide Prevention and is an advocate of Zero Suicide, a nationally established set of evidence-based principles to prevent suicide, and

Whereas, Zero Suicide implementation has begun at Howard Mental Health in Chittenden County and parts of Grand Isle County, at Northwestern Counseling and Support Services in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties, and at Lamoille County Mental Health, and

Whereas, a new and innovative project for the Department of Mental Health is the Crisis Text Line that connects individuals with trained counselors through a free 24/7 text support line, and

Whereas, today, February 13, 2018, Vermont Suicide Prevention Coalition members are visiting the State House to remind legislators of the serious implications of the suicide crisis in Vermont, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates February 13, 2018 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Day, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Suicide Prevention Center.