

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 27, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

House Resolution

No. 36

Introduced by Assembly Member Torres

August 18, 2010

House Resolution No. 36—Relative to Suicide Prevention Week.

1 WHEREAS, Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the
2 United States; and

3 WHEREAS, Suicide is the third leading cause of death among
4 individuals who are 15 to 24, inclusive, years of age in the United
5 States; and

6 WHEREAS, In the United States, one person completes suicide
7 every 15.2 minutes; and

8 WHEREAS, It is estimated that 4.6 million people in the United
9 States, known as survivors of suicide, have lost a loved one to
10 suicide; and

11 WHEREAS, Fifty and two-tenths percent of people who die by
12 suicide use a firearm; and

13 ~~WHEREAS, Guns stored in the house are used for suicide 40~~
14 ~~times more often than for self-protection; and~~

15 WHEREAS, An increase in the overall suicide rate in the United
16 States was seen in 2007, representing a change in the recent pattern
17 of stability or slight declines; and

18 WHEREAS, The suicide rate for individuals who are 15 to 24,
19 inclusive, years of age has more than doubled since the mid-1950s;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Suicide rates remain highest for adults 75 years of
22 age or older; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2007, suicide was the third leading cause of
2 death for Hispanic Americans 15 to 24, inclusive, years of age,
3 the third leading cause of death for Hispanic Americans 25 to 34,
4 inclusive, years of age, and the 13th leading cause of death for
5 Hispanic Americans of all ages; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2007, 18 percent of Hispanic adolescents
7 reported seriously considering attempting suicide in the last 12
8 months, which is a proportion higher than reported by their
9 non-Hispanic classmates; and

10 WHEREAS, Although rates of completed suicide among
11 Hispanic youth are lower than those for non-Hispanic youth,
12 schoolaged Hispanic youth self-report higher rates of feeling sad
13 or hopeless, of thinking about suicide, and of attempting suicide;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The stigma associated with mental illness and
16 suicidality works against suicide prevention by discouraging
17 persons at risk for suicide from seeking life-saving help and further
18 traumatizes survivors of suicide; and

19 WHEREAS, Statewide suicide prevention efforts should be
20 developed and encouraged to the maximum extent possible; and

21 WHEREAS, Organizations such as the American Association
22 of Suicidology, that are dedicated to reducing the frequency of
23 suicide attempts and death and the pain of survivors of suicide
24 through educational programs, research programs, intervention
25 services, and bereavement services, urge the following:

26 (a) Recognition of suicide as a national and state public health
27 problem and the declaration of suicide prevention as a statewide
28 priority.

29 (b) Acknowledgement that no single suicide prevention program
30 or effort will be appropriate for all populations or communities.

31 (c) Encouragement of initiatives based on the goals contained
32 in the National Strategy Prevention, which include all of the
33 following:

34 (1) Promotion of awareness of suicide as a public health problem
35 that is preventable.

36 (2) Development of broadbased support for suicide prevention.

37 (3) Development and implementation of strategies to reduce
38 the stigma associated with being a consumer of mental health,
39 substance abuse, and suicide prevention services.

1 (4) Development and implementation of community-based
2 suicide prevention programs.

3 (5) Development and implementation of community-based
4 suicide bereavement support services.

5 (6) Promotion of efforts to reduce access to lethal means and
6 methods of self-harm.

7 (7) Implementation of training for the recognition of at-risk
8 behavior and for the delivery of effective treatment.

9 (8) Development and promotion of effective clinical and
10 professional practices.

11 (9) An increase in access to, and community linkages with,
12 mental health and substance abuse services.

13 (10) Improvement in reporting and portrayals of suicidal
14 behavior, mental illness, and substance abuse in the entertainment
15 and news media.

16 (11) Promotion and support of research on suicide and suicide
17 prevention.

18 (12) Improvement and expansion of surveillance systems for
19 suicidal behavior; and

20 WHEREAS, A great many suicides are preventable; now,
21 therefore, be it

22 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
23 Members of the Assembly hereby proclaim September 5 through
24 September 11, 2010, as “Suicide Prevention Week”; and be it
25 further

26 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly shall transmit
27 copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O