

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 31, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 77

Introduced by Assembly Member Torres

August 15, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 77—Relative to Suicide Prevention Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 77, as amended, Torres. Suicide Prevention Week.

This measure would proclaim September 4 through September 10, 2011, as Suicide Prevention Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In the United States, one person completes suicide
2 every 15.2 minutes; and
3 WHEREAS, Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the
4 United States; and
5 WHEREAS, Suicide is the third leading cause of death among
6 individuals who are 15 to 24, inclusive, years of age in the United
7 States; and
8 WHEREAS, It is estimated that 4.5 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, Firearms, hanging, suffocation, and poisoning*
14 *constitute more than 90 percent of suicides in the United States;*
15 *and*

1 WHEREAS, 2010 was the second year in a row that the United
2 States military lost more troops to suicide than combat in Iraq and
3 Afghanistan; and

4 WHEREAS, Rates of completed suicide are highest among
5 those 80 years of age and over; 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, The stigma associated with mental illness and
11 suicidality works against suicide prevention by discouraging
12 persons at risk for suicide from seeking ~~life-saving~~ lifesaving help
13 and further traumatizes survivors of suicide; and

14 *WHEREAS, The State of California, in order to address the*
15 *need to prevent suicides, has created the California Strategic Plan*
16 *on Suicide Prevention, established by the Office of Suicide*
17 *Prevention in the State Department of Mental Health, and has*
18 *supported multiple statewide and local projects launched under*
19 *the Mental Health Services Act; and*

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

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

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

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

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

35 (2) Development of broad-based support for suicide prevention.

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

39 (4) Development and implementation of community-based
40 suicide prevention programs.

1 (5) Promotion of efforts to reduce ~~access to~~ *use of* lethal means
2 and methods of self-harm.

3 (6) Implementation of training for the recognition of at-risk
4 behavior and for the delivery of effective treatment.

5 (7) Development and promotion of effective clinical and
6 professional practices.

7 (8) Increase in access to, and community linkages with, mental
8 health and substance abuse services.

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

12 (10) Promotion and support of research on suicide and suicide
13 prevention.

14 (11) Improvement and expansion of surveillance systems for
15 suicidal behavior; and

16 WHEREAS, A great many suicides are preventable; now,
17 therefore, be it

18 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
19 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims
20 September 4 through September 10, 2011, as Suicide Prevention
21 Week; and be it further

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