

**RESOLUTION ON TEEN SUICIDE
AWARENESS AND SUICIDE PREVENTION**

1999 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: Trisha S. Beck

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR
RECOGNIZING THE DESTRUCTIVE EFFECTS OF SUICIDE AS A MATTER OF GREAT
CONCERN TO THE STATE AND ITS CITIZENS; AND ENCOURAGING EFFORTS
DESIGNED TO PREVENT SUICIDE AND REHABILITATE THOSE WHO SURVIVE
SUICIDE ATTEMPTS.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, statistics in Utah identify suicide as the leading cause of death for males ages 15 to 44, and the number two killer of individuals under age 19;

WHEREAS, Utah's suicide rate for ages 15 to 19 has increased nearly 150% in the last 20 years;

WHEREAS, the actual number of suicides and suicide attempts may be as great as four times the number reported since they are often classified as either accidents or homicides;

WHEREAS, while the suicide completion rate per 100,000 has remained relatively stable over the past 40 years for the general population, it has nearly tripled for young people over the same time period;

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental illness works against suicide prevention by keeping persons at risk of completing suicide from seeking lifesaving help;

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

WHEREAS, even though many suicides are currently preventable, there is a great need for the development and utilization of more effective suicide prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, suicide prevention efforts should be encouraged to the maximum extent possible:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the

Governor concurring therein, recognize the destructive effects of suicide as a matter of great concern to the citizens of Utah and its leaders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor recognize that, while no single suicide prevention program or effort is appropriate for all populations or communities, strengthening efforts to prevent these tragedies is a state priority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage efforts dedicated to preventing suicide, responding to people at risk for suicide and people who have attempted suicide, promoting safe and effective treatment for persons at risk for suicidal behavior, supporting those who have lost a loved one to suicide, and developing an effective state strategy for the prevention of suicide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge that accessibility and affordability issues related to insurance and mental health services be resolved so that all persons at risk for suicide may obtain services, and support educational efforts to remove the stigma attached to mental health issues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Utah Department of Health, the Division of Child and Family Services, the State Board of Education, and the Utah Parent Teachers Association.