

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 152

BY REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Recognizes the month of September as suicide prevention awareness month in La. and urges greater awareness of the problem of suicide among military veterans

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To recognize the month of September as "Suicide Prevention Month" in Louisiana to  
3 promote suicide prevention and to raise greater awareness of the problem of suicide  
4 among military service members.

5 WHEREAS, suicide affects all races, genders, and age groups with an estimated  
6 quarter million people each year that are suicide survivors; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2015, Louisiana ranked fourteenth nationally in the number of  
8 reported suicide related deaths; and

9 WHEREAS, military service members and veterans face an elevated risk of suicide  
10 compared to the general population with an estimated twenty-two veterans committing  
11 suicide each day nationwide; and

12 WHEREAS, suicidal behavior is a serious and persistent public health concern with  
13 devastating effects on families and communities; and

14 WHEREAS, as a result of the stigma surrounding suicide, those who are bereaved  
15 by suicide are often perceived differently from those who lost a family member through  
16 another cause of death; and

17 WHEREAS, research shows that suicides are preventable and ninety percent of  
18 people who die by suicide had a diagnosable psychiatric disorder at the time of death; and

19 WHEREAS, all people deserve the opportunity to live healthy lives, and no person  
20 should have their potential limited because of the lack of mental health support needed; and

1           WHEREAS, education and awareness are crucial tools that may assist in combating  
2 suicide rates in Louisiana and nationwide; and

3           WHEREAS, research also demonstrates that increased public awareness of the  
4 warning signs of suicide and awareness of appropriate and effective intervention strategies  
5 reduce suicidal deaths; and

6           WHEREAS, annual World Suicide Prevention Day is September 10, 2016, and  
7 September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month which promotes resources and  
8 awareness around the issues of suicide prevention; and

9           WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana has an opportunity to lead and offer  
10 openness and understanding about the causes, effects, and circumstances of Louisiana  
11 citizens including military service members and veterans who have contemplated suicide.

12           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
13 designate and recognize the month of September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month  
14 in Louisiana to raise public awareness of suicide prevention.

15           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana urges greater  
16 attention to military service members and veterans who are suffering with suicide and to the  
17 mental health services and suicide prevention programs available to members of military  
18 service members and veterans.

19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana encourages  
20 initiatives dedicated to preventing suicide, assisting individuals who have attempted suicide,  
21 creating safe and effective treatment for those at risk for suicide, and supporting people who  
22 have lost someone to suicide.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HCR 152 Original

2016 Regular Session

Jackson

Recognizes the month of September as Suicide Prevention Month in Louisiana to raise greater awareness of the problem of suicide among military service members and veterans.