

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 75

BY SENATOR NEVERS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, through its office of behavioral health, to study and develop a list of suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management training programs meeting the Suicide Prevention Resource Center best practices standards to make available for access by medical professionals and the public in the state of Louisiana; that the department further develop a list of which other professional and citizen groups, beyond the medical professions, the department recommends should be offered such training on a voluntary basis; and that the department recommends how best to make such training widely accessible for use in Louisiana, through online access or otherwise.

WHEREAS, suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, suicide kills more people in this country each year than automobile accidents; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, twelve out of every one hundred thousand people in Louisiana committed suicide; and

WHEREAS, early detection and competent care in the treatment of suicidal thoughts can save lives; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, a study conducted in the state of Georgia demonstrated that a group of mental health professionals without best practices suicide prevention training demonstrated a nine-percent group average competency rate in suicide assessment and intervention, and, after only a minimal number of hours of such empirically-supported training, the group's average competency rate in suicide assessment and intervention rose to eighty-nine percent; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals is currently making available to many state agency personnel best practices, empirically-supported training in suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management; and

WHEREAS, many evidence-based, successful suicide prevention training programs are available online and otherwise at minimal cost through organizations such as the nationally recognized Suicide Prevention Resource Center and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Louisiana's medical professionals and professions such as educators and law enforcement, other civic or citizen groups, such as students, could benefit from such suicide assessment and intervention training.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals, through its office of behavioral health, to study and develop a list of suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management training programs meeting the Suicide Prevention Resource Center best practices standards to make available for access by medical professionals and the public in the state of Louisiana; that the department further develop a list of which other professional and citizen groups, beyond the medical professions, the department recommends should be offered such training on a voluntary basis; and that the department recommend how best to make such training widely accessible for use in Louisiana, through online access or otherwise.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals complete this study and deliver a written report with its findings and recommendations to the health and welfare committees of the Louisiana Senate and House of Representatives on or before January 1, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, and to the assistant secretary of Department of Health and Hospitals, office of behavioral health.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES