
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3—COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO
STUDY SUICIDE PREVENTION)

FEBRUARY 10, 2003

Referred to Committee on Human Resources and Facilities

SUMMARY—Urges each community in Nevada to form coalition of agencies and service providers to reduce number of suicides and provide support for survivors. (BDR R-291)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Urging each community in Nevada to form a coalition of agencies and service providers to reduce the number of suicides and provide support for survivors.

1 WHEREAS, For at least 2 decades, Nevada has ranked at the top
2 of the listing of states with high rates of suicide and has maintained
3 a rate that is twice the national average; and

4 WHEREAS, National and state research indicates that Nevada’s
5 high rate of suicide is evident for all age groups and all
6 socioeconomic populations in the State, particularly for youth,
7 elderly men, Native Americans and residents of rural communities;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The same research has found that the vast majority
10 of Nevada’s suicide victims are actually residents of Nevada, and
11 not tourists as is the typical assumption; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2001, the Surgeon General of the United States
13 issued a plan to reduce the nation’s high rate of suicide in his report
14 *National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for*
15 *Action*, which recognizes the importance of gaining strong and
16 broad support for suicide prevention through public awareness that
17 suicide is a serious public health problem which is preventable; and



1 WHEREAS, According to the Surgeon General, it is important
2 that suicide prevention be integrated into existing programs and
3 activities at the community level, and one of the goals of the
4 *National Strategy* is to develop and implement community-based
5 programs for suicide prevention; and

6 WHEREAS, One of the objectives under this goal is to increase
7 the number of states that have comprehensive plans for suicide
8 prevention which coordinate across governmental agencies, involve
9 the private sector and support the development, implementation and
10 evaluation of such plans in each community; and

11 WHEREAS, Plans created by states may help communities
12 address the local issues important in suicide prevention, for
13 example, such issues as the rate of suicide being affected by the
14 norms and cultural values of a community and the rate of suicide
15 varying with factors such as the percentage of the population that
16 resides in rural areas and the ethnic composition of the population;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Another goal of the *National Strategy* is to improve
19 access to and community linkages with mental health and substance
20 abuse services, and a related objective is to increase the number of
21 cities and counties with outreach programs for health and social
22 services that incorporate mental health services and suicide
23 prevention for populations at risk of suicide; and

24 WHEREAS, Research conducted by public health and mental
25 health agencies in Nevada indicates that there is a lack of public
26 awareness of the seriousness of the suicide problem and a lack of
27 coordination and communication between existing private and
28 public agencies, particularly in communities in Clark County and
29 many of the rural counties; now, therefore, be it

30 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
31 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That in response to the Surgeon
32 General's goals relating to community-based programs for suicide
33 prevention and linkages with mental health and substance abuse
34 services, each city and county in Nevada is hereby urged to form a
35 coalition of agencies and service providers to address suicide
36 prevention through education, response and treatment, with the
37 goals of reducing suicides in each community and providing support
38 for the surviving family and friends of suicide victims; and be it
39 further

40 RESOLVED, That the local programs for suicide prevention
41 should be developed based on each community's resources and
42 needs; and be it further

43 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
44 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Nevada Association of
45 Counties, Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities, Director of



1 the Department of Human Resources, Nevada Public Health
2 Foundation, Nevada Chapter of the American Foundation for
3 Suicide Prevention, Suicide Prevention Action Network USA, Inc.,
4 Dean of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension at the
5 University of Nevada, Reno, Executive Director of the Nevada
6 Indian Commission, Nevada Chapters of the American Association
7 of Retired Persons, Nevada Parent-Teacher Association, Nevada
8 Hispanic Services, Inc., Nevada Association of Latin Americans,
9 and Nevada Chapters of the National Association for the
10 Advancement of Colored People.

