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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5—COMMITTEE ON  
HUMAN RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

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

FEBRUARY 10, 2003

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Referred to Committee on Human Resources and Facilities

SUMMARY—Urges agencies in Clark County to cooperate in establishment of plan for suicide prevention in Clark County. (BDR R-289)

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

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Urging agencies in Clark County to cooperate in the establishment of a plan for suicide prevention in Clark County.

1 WHEREAS, For the past 17 years, the State of Nevada has led the  
2 nation in the rate of suicide, consistently averaging twice the  
3 national rate; and

4 WHEREAS, For the past 5 years, over 64 percent of completed  
5 suicides in our state occurred in Clark County, and during the year  
6 2000, the rate of suicide in Clark County, which contains almost 70  
7 percent of the State's population, was 18.3 per 100,000, only  
8 slightly lower than the average for the entire State; and

9 WHEREAS, An extensive survey of existing agencies for suicide  
10 prevention located within Clark County has revealed a substantial  
11 lack of programs for public awareness regarding suicide prevention  
12 and a definite need for development and improvement of the  
13 quantity and range of services offered for suicide prevention  
14 throughout Clark County; and

15 WHEREAS, The survey also made apparent the need for a greater  
16 degree of coordination and communication among existing agencies  
17 in Clark County that provide resources relating to suicide and the  
18 prevention of suicide; and

19 WHEREAS, There is currently no organized effort in Clark  
20 County aimed at suicide prevention, and most of those employed in



1 the health and injury prevention fields are not aware of any  
2 comprehensive list of resources relating to suicide prevention; and

3 WHEREAS, Any serious attempt to reduce the rate of suicide in  
4 Clark County will require a strong effort through the cooperation  
5 and coordination of agencies in the County to achieve a countywide  
6 coalition and partnership that can be an important component of an  
7 overall statewide strategy; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE  
9 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That governmental and nongovernmental  
10 agencies in Clark County, including, without limitation, the Clark  
11 County Board of Commissioners, the Clark County Health District,  
12 mental health agencies, social service agencies, churches, public  
13 health clinics, school districts, law enforcement agencies,  
14 emergency medical personnel, providers of health care and other  
15 similar community organizations and groups within Clark County,  
16 are hereby urged to cooperate in the establishment of a coordinated,  
17 comprehensive plan for suicide prevention for the communities  
18 within the County; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the plan provide for effective and diverse  
20 programs for suicide prevention which can be implemented in the  
21 communities of Clark County, including, without limitation,  
22 programs that will:

23 1. Through evidence-based methods, reduce risk factors and  
24 enhance protective factors for suicidal behavior in persons of all  
25 ages;

26 2. Distribute educational materials which will increase the  
27 awareness of and reduce the stigma associated with suicide;

28 3. Create a telephone hot line for suicide prevention which is  
29 operated 24 hours per day, accredited or certified by a nationally  
30 recognized organization in the field of suicide prevention, and  
31 supported by existing funding for programs for suicide prevention  
32 by local governments in Clark County;

33 4. Refer persons who are at risk of committing suicide to  
34 services through which they can obtain appropriate assistance;

35 5. Develop a Clark County resource directory or an Internet  
36 website, or both, for suicide prevention and for assistance for  
37 survivors of suicide;

38 6. Train first responders and persons who regularly come into  
39 contact with persons or families in distress, such as clergy, police  
40 officers, emergency medical personnel, primary health care  
41 providers, mental health providers and school personnel;

42 7. Educate the public through the news media and distribution  
43 of guidelines regarding the availability of related services; and

44 8. Provide appropriate services to survivors of suicide; and be  
45 it further



1 RESOLVED, That the funding for these programs include a  
2 combination of nongovernmental support as well as support from  
3 federal, state and local governmental sources; and be it further  
4 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and  
5 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Clark County Board of  
6 Commissioners, Clark County Health District, Clark County Social  
7 Services, Suicide Prevention Center of Clark County, Nevada Public  
8 Health Foundation, Nevada Chapter of the American Foundation for  
9 Suicide Prevention, Suicide Prevention Action Network USA, Inc.,  
10 Nevada Hospital Association, Psychiatric Emergency Services,  
11 Senior Mental Health Outreach Program, Elder Abuse and Neglect  
12 Unit of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Lake Mead  
13 Geropsych Unit, Valley Hospital Geropsych Unit, Montevista  
14 Hospital, Southern Nevada Health Care System of the Veterans'  
15 Health Administration, Director of the Department of Human  
16 Resources, Ombudsman for Aging Persons of the Aging Services  
17 Division of the Department of Human Resources, Administrator of  
18 the Health Division of the Department of Human Resources,  
19 Agency Director of the Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health  
20 Services of the Division of Mental Health and Developmental  
21 Services of the Department of Human Resources, and Administrator  
22 of the Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of  
23 Human Resources.

