

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 83

BY SENATOR NEVERS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, and the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges consider incorporating and including, where possible, in their schools disciplines and degree programs, particularly in those programs related to physical and behavioral health, education and criminal justice, suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management training that meets the Suicide Prevention Resource Center best practices standards.

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 car 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, Louisiana's 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, not only Louisiana's medical professionals, but also other professions such as educators and law enforcement and other citizen groups, such as students, could benefit from such suicide assessment, intervention, treatment and management training.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, and the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges consider incorporating and including, where possible, in their schools disciplines and degree programs, particularly in those programs related to physical and behavioral health, education and criminal justice, suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management training that meets the Suicide Prevention Resource Center best practices standards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, and the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES