

**No. R-49. House concurrent resolution designating Thursday, February 14, 2019 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Day at the State House.**

(H.C.R.37)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Whereas, suicide is the second-leading cause of death for Vermonters between 15 and 34 years of age, and Vermont has the highest rate of suicide deaths in New England, and

Whereas, the Vermont Suicide Prevention Coalition includes public health, education, and State agencies, suicide prevention groups, youth leadership, mental health services, and suicide survivors, and

Whereas, the Vermont Suicide Prevention Center (the Center), in cooperation with the Department of Mental Health, created the Vermont Suicide Prevention Coalition, and

Whereas, the Center, which works to promote and implement the message that suicide is preventable among persons of any age, is a strong advocate for the Umatter suicide prevention program, premised on the idea that “you matter because you may need help, and you matter because you may be in a position to help,” and draws upon the support of an individual’s family, friends, and community, and ultimately the broader society, and

Whereas, recently, the Center started its Zero Suicide initiative, a commitment to suicide prevention in health care systems that includes specific strategies and tools, and

Whereas, the Zero Suicide initiative is organized around three central elements: core values, systems management, and evidence-based practices, and

Whereas, the initiative encourages mental health specialists to explicitly commit to reduce deaths; develop a competent, confident, and caring workforce; assess patients for suicide risk; engage at-risk patients in a care plan; treat suicidal thoughts and behaviors directly; and follow patients through every transition in care, and

Whereas, the Center is conducting a Zero Suicide webinar series to convey these important concepts to health and mental health professionals, and

Whereas, today, suicide prevention advocates are visiting the State House to convey to the members of the General Assembly their important message promoting effective engagement with persons who are contemplating or susceptible to suicide, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates Thursday, February 14, 2019 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Day at the State House, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Suicide Prevention Center.