

SENATE RESOLUTION 31

(By Senators Weld, Jeffries, Grady, and Rucker)

[Introduced March 13, 2025]

1 Designating March 14, 2025, as Suicide Prevention Awareness Day at the Legislature.

2 Whereas, Tragically, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in West Virginia, and the 2nd
3 leading cause of death for individuals between the ages of 10 to 34; and

4 Whereas, According to the CDC one American is lost to suicide every 11 minutes resulting
5 in over 49,000 deaths each year; and

6 Whereas, Suicide is the only leading cause of death in the United States that has
7 increased every year for the past decade; and

8 Whereas, It is estimated that over 1.6 million people attempt suicide each year; and

9 Whereas, The Department of Public Health reports that in West Virginia, seventy-one
10 percent of suicide deaths are from firearms and there are approximately 18.3 suicides per 100,000
11 West Virginians; and

12 Whereas, Over ninety percent of the people who die by suicide have a diagnosable and
13 treatable mental health condition, although their condition is not often recognized or treated; and

14 Whereas, The stigma associated with mental health conditions and suicidality works
15 against suicide prevention by both discouraging those who are at risk from seeking life-saving
16 help, and traumatizing the survivors of suicide loss and those who have lived with the experience
17 of suicide; and

18 Whereas, Organizations such as The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
19 envision a world without suicide, and are dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those
20 affected by suicide, through research, education, advocacy, and resources for those who have

1 lost, or struggle with these urges; and

2 Whereas, It is imperative we recognize suicide as a preventable national and state public
3 health crisis and declare suicide prevention to be a priority. Further, we must acknowledge that no
4 single suicide prevention program or effort can or will be appropriate for all populations or
5 communities, but well-placed initiatives based on the goals contained in the National Strategy for
6 Suicide Prevention and West Virginia's strategy for suicide prevention are encouraged. One such
7 initiative is promoting awareness that there is no single cause for suicide, and that suicide most
8 often occurs when stressors exceed the coping abilities of someone suffering from a mental health
9 condition; and

10 Whereas, It is absolutely critical that our state and nation develop and implement
11 strategies to increase access to quality mental health and substance abuse treatment options, as
12 well as suicide prevention services; therefore, be it

13 *Resolved by the Senate:*

14 That the Senate hereby designates March 14, 2025, as Suicide Prevention Awareness
15 Day at the Legislature; and, be it

16 *Further Resolved,* That the Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to
17 the appropriate representative of the West Virginia Chapter of the American Foundation for
18 Suicide Prevention.