

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 181

BY REPRESENTATIVES BACALA, BARRAS, AND EDMONDS

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Designates Tuesday, May 24, 2016, as Suicide Prevention Day in the state

1 A RESOLUTION

2 Designates Tuesday, May 24, 2016, as Suicide Prevention Day in the state of Louisiana.

3 WHEREAS, suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States and the  
4 fourth leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 64; and

5 WHEREAS, in the United States and in Louisiana, more than twice as many people  
6 die by suicide than die by homicide; and

7 WHEREAS, in the United States, one person commits suicide every 12.3 minutes;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, in the United States, it is estimated that there are twenty-five youth  
10 suicide attempts for every completed youth suicide; and

11 WHEREAS, in the United States, more than 9.4 million adults report having serious  
12 thoughts of suicide in the past year; 2.7 million adults report making a suicide plan in the  
13 past year, and 1.1 million adults report a suicide attempt in the past year; and

14 WHEREAS, it is estimated that 6.3 million people in the United States have lost a  
15 loved one to suicide; and

16 WHEREAS, more than 90% of people who take their own lives have an underlying  
17 mental disorder that often was never identified or treated; and

18 WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental disorders works against suicide  
19 prevention by discouraging persons at risk for suicide from seeking life-saving help, and the  
20 stigma associated with suicide subjects survivors of suicide loss to further trauma; and

1           WHEREAS, inasmuch as a great many suicides are preventable, statewide suicide  
2 prevention efforts should be encouraged to the maximum extent possible; and

3           WHEREAS, organizations such as the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
4 (AFSP) are dedicated to understanding and preventing suicide through research, education,  
5 and advocacy, and are committed to reaching out to people with mental disorders and those  
6 impacted by suicide; and

7           WHEREAS, AFSP urges concerned citizens to recognize suicide as a national and  
8 state health problem, to declare suicide prevention to be a statewide priority, and to  
9 acknowledge that no single suicide prevention program or effort will be appropriate for all  
10 populations or communities; and

11           WHEREAS, AFSP also urges concerned citizens to encourage initiatives based on  
12 goals contained in the *2012 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention*, including the  
13 promotion and support of research on suicide prevention, the implementation of research-  
14 informed communication efforts designed to prevent suicide by changing knowledge,  
15 attitudes, and behaviors, and the promotion of suicide prevention as a core component of  
16 health care services.

17           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
18 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Tuesday, May 24, 2016, as Suicide  
19 Prevention Day in the state of Louisiana, and also encourages citizens of the state to  
20 recognize suicide as a statewide public health problem and suicide prevention as a statewide  
21 responsibility.

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
23 to the co-chairs of the Louisiana chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention,  
24 Cynthia Elmer and Jamie Savoy.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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