

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 119

BY SENATOR MIZELL

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools to develop and implement a system for collecting and reporting aggregated, non-identifiable data on suicide risk assessments conducted in public schools and to submit an annual report of the data to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare, and to involve Peer Initiative and the Louisiana Mental Health Association in the development, implementation, and training associated with this process.

WHEREAS, suicide has tragically become the second leading cause of death for teenagers in Louisiana, with rates steadily increasing nationwide, highlighting an urgent public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, the safety, mental health, and well-being of our youth is a priority shared by parents, educators, and communities throughout Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, despite the critical nature of this issue, many Louisiana school districts currently lack standardized protocols to collect or report non-identifiable data on suicide risk assessments, leaving policymakers and educators without vital information needed to address and mitigate these risks effectively; and

WHEREAS, without a comprehensive, data-driven approach, Louisiana risks falling short in efforts to protect at-risk youth and to implement targeted, impactful mental health services within our schools; and

WHEREAS, data collected through suicide risk assessments would allow the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools to identify trends, assess gaps in mental health services, and better allocate resources to address this crisis; and

WHEREAS, a statewide initiative to collect and report this critical data would ensure transparency, accountability, and an evidence-based foundation for future suicide prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, Peer Initiative, a statewide leader in peer support and teen suicide prevention, has extensive experience training students and school personnel on mental health and crisis intervention strategies and has demonstrated success in partnering with educational institutions to implement effective prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools was established by Louisiana Revised Statute 29:726.5.1 within the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness to facilitate safety and security on school campuses; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Mental Health Association (LMHA), a nonprofit organization committed to improving mental health care and advocating for individuals and families affected by mental illness, has a long-standing history of working with schools, communities, and policymakers to promote mental health awareness and support.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools to develop and implement a system for collecting and reporting aggregated, non-identifiable data on suicide risk assessments conducted by school personnel in public schools statewide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the data collected shall include but not be limited to:

- (1) The total number of suicide risk assessments conducted annually.
- (2) Age ranges and grade levels of students assessed.
- (3) Aggregated demographic information, including race, ethnicity, and gender.
- (4) The number of students referred to mental health services as a result of the assessments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all data collected shall be aggregated and non-identifiable, ensuring that individual students cannot be personally identified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each school district shall submit an annual report compiling this data to the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools by August first following the completion of each school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools shall compile and submit a comprehensive annual report to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare by October first of each year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools shall develop guidelines and provide training resources to assist school districts in the collection and reporting of data and shall include Peer Initiative and the Louisiana Mental Health Association in the development, implementation, and training associated with these efforts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools and the executive director of the Louisiana School Boards Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes the importance of suicide prevention efforts and expresses its commitment to promoting the mental health and safety of Louisiana's youth through informed, evidence-based policy initiatives.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE