

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

BY REPRESENTATIVE HENRY BURNS AND SENATORS ALLAIN, BUFFINGTON,
CLAITOR, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, MILLS, AND THOMPSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To authorize and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study the most effective means by which to reduce the rate of suicide in Louisiana and to report its findings to the legislative committees on health and welfare.

WHEREAS, a suicide is a tragic event which brings profound sorrow and a sense of great loss to the loved ones of the person whose life was ended too soon; and

WHEREAS, while suicide occurs among persons of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, and income levels, it is a particular problem among youth in Louisiana, with suicide ranking as the third-leading cause of death for young people in this state; and

WHEREAS, suicides are sometimes preceded by warning signs exhibited through a person's behavior, the detection of which can lead to prevention of a suicide; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana finds that identifying and putting into practice more effective means of suicide prevention is an important public health priority for this state; and

WHEREAS, due to the abundance of specialized expertise among staff in its office of behavioral health, the Department of Health and Hospitals is uniquely qualified to lead a study effort which can inform policymakers on ways in which this state may mitigate the tragic problem of suicide.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby authorize and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study the most effective means by which to reduce the rate of suicide in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the department may engage, collaborate with, and obtain information and perspective from stakeholder groups with an interest in suicide prevention.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall provide the findings of this study in the form of a report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare on or before February 1, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution and its resulting study effort be dedicated to the memory of the late Matt Bison of Haughton, Louisiana, and to all families of this state who struggle each day to cope with a loved one's suicide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Matt Bison and to the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE