SHORT TITLE: Declaring Saturday, March 6, 1993, Teen-age Suicide Awareness Day in the State of Oklahoma.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 44th Legislature (1993)

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 13 By: Robinson of the Senate

and

Monks and Settle
of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution supporting the Teen-age Suicide Awareness Project as coordinated by the Indian Capital Vo-Tech Practical Nursing Chapter of the Health Occupations Students of America in Muskogee, Oklahoma; declaring Saturday, March 6, 1993, "Teen-age Suicide Awareness Day" in the State of Oklahoma; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, suicide now ranks as the second leading cause of death among young people 15-24 years of age. In the United States approximately 5,000 suicides occur annually among this age group. Each day 13 young Americans kill themselves and many more attempt suicide and fail. Nationally, females attempt suicide three times as often as males, but males complete suicide three times as often as females. Experts estimate that among youth there may be 100 to 200 suicide attempts for every actual death. Statistics show that 75 percent of suicide victims have stated their intentions to someone beforehand; and

WHEREAS, the warning signs of suicide include changes in eating and sleeping habits; withdrawal from friends, family and regular activities; violent or rebellious behavior; running away; drug abuse; unusual neglect of personal appearance; radical change of personality; a decline in the quality of school work; persistent

boredom and difficulty concentrating; and frequent complaints about physical symptoms that are often related to emotions such as stomachaches, headaches, and general fatigue; and

WHEREAS, the risk factors involved in suicide include a family history of alcohol and drug abuse; family breakdown; placement outside the family; symptoms of delinquency; aggression and depression; and conflict with parents, peers or school officials; and

WHEREAS, research on the prevention of suicide has focused on early recognition and identification of depression in young people, and on ways of coping and learning communication skills. The more young people learn about the signs of suicide, the better chance they have to prevent suicide; and

WHEREAS, if one or more of the warning signs occur, someone should talk with the individual, and if signs persist professional help should be sought. If someone you know is considering suicide, the correct response is to call a suicide hotline, call the police, call a hospital, talk to a school official or call a local youth worker. Two fast ways to get help are: dialing zero on the telephone and asking the operator for the telephone number of the Suicide Hotline, calling the number and asking for help or dialing nine-one-one and asking the police for assistance; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Capital Vo-Tech Practical Nursing Chapter of the Health Occupations Students of America in Muskogee, Oklahoma, is coordinating a "Teen-age Suicide Awareness" project which includes distribution of a pamphlet entitled "Advice for Life".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature supports the Teen-age Suicide Awareness Project as coordinated by the Indian Capital Vo-

Tech Practical Nursing Chapter of the Health Occupations Students of America in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature declares Saturday, March 6, 1993, as "Teen-age Suicide Awareness Day" in the State of Oklahoma.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the National Health Occupations Students of America Office in Irving, Texas; Psychologist Jim Maroney of Green Country Mental Health; Jeannie Ford, Counselor of the Indian Capital Vo-Tech; Terry Barrick, Registered Nurse, Health Occupations Students of America Advisor at the Indian Capital Vo-Tech; John Jennings, Area Supervisor, Burger Kings of Muskogee; and Jim Bushnell, Commercial Bank and Trust Company of Muskogee.

44-1-0911 THC