ENGROSSED HOUSE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1042

By: Ervin of the House

and

Haney of the Senate

A Concurrent Resolution designating the first full week of May as Suicide Prevention Awareness Week; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, National Suicide Prevention Week has been observed annually during the first full week of May throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, there are no age, social, economic or ethnic boundaries immune to the act of suicide; and

WHEREAS, the American Association of Suicidology reported that suicide is the eighth leading cause of death among all Americans, with over 30,000 dying annually; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people aged 15-24 nationwide, increasing 200% since 1950; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma State Department of Health reports that for the years 1989-1993, suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among young people aged 15-24, ranking only behind accidents; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the 4th leading cause of death among children aged 10-14 in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the 8th leading cause of all Oklahoma deaths; and

WHEREAS, experts estimate that each suicide intimately affects at least six other persons; and

WHEREAS, the tragedy of a suicide death shatters the lives of unsuspecting family members and friends; and

WHEREAS, suicide can be prevented through the recognition of warning signs and referral to available resources; and

WHEREAS, public awareness, education and knowledge of available resources are key elements in the prevention of suicide deaths.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 45TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature declares the first full week of May as Suicide Prevention Awareness Week in the State of Oklahoma for 1995 and all following years coinciding with National Suicide Prevention Week.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to J.R. Nida, M.D., Commissioner of Health, State Department of Health; Sharron D. Boehler, Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; Thomas S. Kemper, Director, Commission on Children and Youth; and Lanny Berman, Ph.D., Executive Director, American Association of Suicidology, Denver, Colorado.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 10th day of May, 1995.

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Adopted by the Senate the ____ day of _____, 1995.

President of the Senate