

ENROLLED HOUSE
JOINT
RESOLUTION NO. 1018

By: Greenwood, Staggs, Askins,
Winchester, Dank, Boyd,
Ostrander, Wells and Bryant
of the House

and

Haney of the Senate

A Joint Resolution creating the Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force; stating purpose; providing for appointments, membership, officer, meetings and travel reimbursement for the Task Force; requiring report; providing for noncodification; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, according to 1995 national statistics, Oklahoma ranks tenth in the nation in the rate of suicides among young people, with a rate of fifteen and three-tenths per one hundred thousand people for all ages. A study of suicide in the fifty largest metropolitan areas in the United States ranks Oklahoma City as eighth in the rate of suicide, with a rate of fourteen and eight-tenths per one hundred thousand people for the three-year period from 1990 to 1992; and

WHEREAS, suicide was either the second or third leading cause of death due to injury among persons fifteen (15) to sixty-four (64) years of age in Oklahoma for the period between 1990 and 1994. In 1995, suicide claimed five hundred twelve lives, one hundred ten of whom were youth; and

WHEREAS, in the ten-year period from 1986 to 1995 there were eight hundred eighty-three youths under twenty-five (25) years of age who died from suicide in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, suicide is a complex and multifaceted biological, sociological, psychological and societal problem. Many suicides are preventable if persons who exhibit suicidal behavior are identified and provided appropriate help; and

WHEREAS, a single suicide intimately affects at least six other persons, including family members and friends of the person who died as a result of suicide. Additionally, deaths from suicide impose a significant unrecognized and unmeasured economic burden on the state with regard to the loss of years of potential, medical costs and time lost from work by mourners. A 1980 United States study showed that each youth suicide resulted in an average loss of fifty-three (53) years of life and Four Hundred Thirty-two Thousand Dollars (\$432,000.00) in economic productivity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 47TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created until November 1, 2000, the Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force. The purpose of the Task Force shall be:

1. To study the problem of youth suicide in this state, including the role of alcohol and other substance abuse in youth suicide; and

2. To develop a comprehensive state plan for youth suicide prevention and intervention.

B. 1. Task Force members shall be appointed by the State Commissioner of Health and shall consist of:

- a. state agency representatives,
- b. teachers,
- c. school counselors,
- d. Parent Teacher Association members,
- e. Native American community representatives,
- f. drug and alcohol treatment professionals,
- g. survivors of suicide, including but not limited to, family members or loved ones of youths who committed suicide, and
- h. suicide prevention organization representatives.

2. The Task Force shall also include the following members:

- a. the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, or designee,
- b. the State Commissioner of Health, or designee,
- c. the Director of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, or designee,
- d. the Director of the Department of Human Services, or designee,
- e. the Director of the Office of Juvenile Affairs, or designee,
- f. one member of the clergy, appointed by the Governor,
- g. three members, one each appointed by the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, who are licensed

psychologists or mental health professionals who work in suicide prevention,

- h. three members, one each appointed by the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, who are members of private local community mental health programs or suicide prevention programs,
- i. at least three members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
- j. at least three members of the Oklahoma State Senate, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

C. The Task Force shall meet at least monthly at the call of the chair. The State Commissioner of Health, or a designee, shall serve as Chair of the Task Force. The Commissioner shall provide meeting space, staffing and any other services necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Task Force. Members of the Task Force shall receive no compensation for their service on the Task Force but shall be reimbursed for their travel expenses related to the Task Force pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

D. The Task Force shall issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature on or before October 31, 2000.

SECTION 2. The Secretary of State is hereby directed to distribute copies of this resolution to the Governor and the State Commissioner of Health.

Passed the House of Representatives the 15th day of April, 1999.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 12th day of April, 1999.

President of the Senate