

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR HOUSE JOINT
5 RESOLUTION NO. 1018

By: Greenwood

6
7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 A Joint Resolution creating the Youth Suicide
9 Prevention Task Force; stating purpose; providing for
10 membership, appointments, officer, staff meetings,
11 nonreimbursement, and duties; requiring a final
12 report; and providing for noncodification.

13 WHEREAS, latest national statistics for 1995 indicate that
14 Oklahoma is tied for 10th place with a suicide rate of 15.3 for all
15 ages; and

16 WHEREAS, a study of suicide in the 50 largest U.S. metropolitan
17 areas ranks Oklahoma City in 8th place with a suicide rate of 14.8
18 for the three-year period from 1990 to 1992; and

19 WHEREAS, suicide is the second and third leading cause of injury
20 deaths among persons 15 to 64 years of age in Oklahoma (1990-1994).
21 For 1995, suicide is the third leading cause of death claiming 512
22 lives, including 110 youth; and

23 WHEREAS, in the ten-year period from 1986 to 1995 there have
24 been 883 youths under age 25 that died from suicide in Oklahoma; and

25 WHEREAS, suicide is a complex and multifaceted biological,
26 sociological, psychological and societal problem; and

27 WHEREAS, many suicides are preventable if persons at risk of
28 suicidal behavior can be identified and provided appropriate help;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, each suicide intimately affects at least six other
31 people, including family members and friends of a loved one who died
32 by suicide; and

1 WHEREAS, suicide deaths impose a huge unrecognized and
2 unmeasured economic burden on the State of Oklahoma in terms of
3 potential years of life lost, medical costs incurred and work time
4 lost by mourners. A United States study showed each youth suicide
5 resulted in an average loss of 53 years of life and \$432,000.00 of
6 economic productivity.

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

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

11 A. There is hereby created until November 1, 2000, the Youth
12 Suicide Prevention Task Force. The purpose of this Task Force is to
13 study the problem of youth suicide and develop a comprehensive state
14 plan for reducing the suicide rate in Oklahoma.

15 The Task Force shall be appointed by the Commissioner of Health
16 and consist of representatives from state agencies, teachers, school
17 counselors, PTA members, Native American community representatives,
18 drug and alcohol treatment professionals, survivors of suicide which
19 would include but not be limited to family members or loved ones of
20 someone who died by suicide, and suicide prevention organization
21 representatives. The Task Force shall include the following
22 members:

- 23 1. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction, or designee;
- 24 2. The State Commissioner of Health, or designee;
- 25 3. The Director of Mental Health, or designee;
- 26 4. The Director of the Department of Human Services, or
27 designee;
- 28 5. The Director of the Office of Juvenile Affairs, or designee;
- 29 6. At least three members appointed by the Governor who are
30 licensed psychologists, or mental health professionals who work in
31 suicide prevention;
- 32

1 7. At least three members of the Oklahoma House of
2 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of
3 Representatives;

4 8. At least three members of the Oklahoma Senate appointed by
5 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and

6 9. At least three members appointed by the Governor who are
7 members of private local community mental health programs or suicide
8 prevention programs.

9 The Task Force shall meet at least monthly at the call of the
10 Chair. The Chair shall be the Commissioner of Health. The
11 Commissioner shall provide a meeting room, staff and all other
12 necessities for the success of the study. The members shall receive
13 no reimbursement.

14 B. The Task Force shall study and develop a comprehensive plan
15 for suicide prevention, intervention and postvention.

16 The Task Force shall file a report with the Governor, the
17 Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro
18 Tempore of the Senate on or before October 31, 2000, with its
19 findings and recommendations from the study.

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