

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 162

BY LENSING

A Resolution identifying suicide as a problem affecting the entire state and supporting the development of suicide prevention activities.

WHEREAS, according to the Iowa Department of Public Health's Healthy Iowans 2010 report, in the United States suicide is the ninth leading cause of death overall, the third leading cause of death for persons ages 15 to 24, the sixth leading cause of death for persons ages five to 15, and suicide rates are high among the elderly; and

WHEREAS, in Iowa, the report indicates suicide deaths average 306 per year and according to the federal government's National Strategy for Suicide Prevention it is estimated there are five suicide attempts for every death; and

WHEREAS, analysis of the national strategy information indicates in 1996 medical costs relating to suicide attempts and deaths by young people were estimated at \$14 million, loss of future earnings totaled \$44 million, and loss of quality of life costs amounted to \$174 million; and

WHEREAS, the Healthy Iowans 2010 report stresses the importance of raising community awareness about the need for early intervention and recognition of Iowa citizens who are potentially at risk for suicide, particularly youth and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, Iowa's Suicide Prevention Strategy Steering Committee, a group of educators, mental

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1 health and public health workers, counselors,
2 physicians, and others, have requested that suicide
3 prevention be identified as a state goal; NOW
4 THEREFORE,

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
6 That the House of Representatives identifies suicide
7 as a serious problem affecting the entire state and
8 that a variety of suicide prevention programs are
9 needed for all populations and in all communities in
10 the state; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of
12 Representatives supports development of the following
13 suicide prevention initiatives: responding to persons
14 at risk for suicide and persons who have attempted
15 suicide, promoting safe and effective treatment for
16 persons at risk for suicidal behavior, supporting
17 persons who have lost someone to suicide, and
18 developing an effective statewide strategy for the
19 prevention of suicide; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of
21 Representatives encourages the development and
22 promotion of accessible and affordable mental health
23 services to enable all persons who are at risk for
24 suicide to obtain these services without fear of any
25 stigma.

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