

1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 151
2 BY RAGAN and TINSMAN
3 A Resolution identifying suicide as a problem affecting
4 the entire state and supporting the development of
5 suicide prevention activities.
6 WHEREAS, according to the Iowa Department of Public
7 Health's Healthy Iowans 2010 report, in the United
8 States suicide is the ninth leading cause of death
9 overall, the third leading cause of death for persons
10 ages 15 to 24, the sixth leading cause of death for
11 persons ages five to 15, and suicide rates are high
12 among the elderly; and
13 WHEREAS, in Iowa, the report indicates suicide
14 deaths average 306 per year and according to the
15 federal government's National Strategy for Suicide
16 Prevention it is estimated there are five suicide
17 attempts for every death; and
18 WHEREAS, analysis of the national strategy
19 information indicates in 1996 medical costs relating
20 to suicide attempts and deaths by young people were
21 estimated at \$14 million, loss of future earnings
22 totaled \$44 million, and loss of quality of life costs
23 amounted to \$174 million; and
24 WHEREAS, the Healthy Iowans 2010 report stresses
25 the importance of raising community awareness about
26 the need for early intervention and recognition of
27 Iowa citizens who are potentially at risk for suicide,
28 particularly youth and the elderly; and
29 WHEREAS, Iowa's Suicide Prevention Strategy
30 Steering Committee, a group of educators, mental

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RULES & ADMINISTRATION

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 SENATE, That the Senate
6 identifies suicide as a serious problem affecting the
7 entire state and that a variety of suicide prevention
8 programs are needed for all populations and in all
9 communities in the state; and

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

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

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