

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 339

Designating November 18, 2000, as “National Survivors of Suicide Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 21, 2000

Mr. REID submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Designating November 18, 2000, as “National Survivors of
Suicide Day”.

Whereas the 105th Congress, in Senate Resolution 84 and
House Resolution 212, recognized suicide as a national
problem and suicide prevention as a national priority;

Whereas the Surgeon General has publicly recognized suicide
as a public health problem;

Whereas the resolutions of the 105th Congress called for a
collaboration between public and private organizations
and individuals concerned with suicide;

Whereas in the United States, more than 30,000 people take
their own lives each year;

Whereas suicide is the 8th leading cause of death in the
United States and the 3rd major cause of death among
young people aged 15 through 19;

Whereas the suicide rate among young people has more than tripled in the last 4 decades, a fact that is a tragedy in itself and a source of devastation to millions of family members and loved ones;

Whereas every year in the United States, hundreds of thousands of people become suicide survivors (people that have lost a loved one to suicide), and there are approximately 8,000,000 suicide survivors in the United States today;

Whereas society still needlessly stigmatizes both the people that take their own lives and suicide survivors;

Whereas there is a need for greater outreach to suicide survivors because, all too often, they are left alone to grieve;

Whereas suicide survivors are often helped to rebuild their lives through a network of support with fellow survivors;

Whereas suicide survivors play an essential role in educating communities about the risks of suicide and the need to develop suicide prevention strategies; and

Whereas suicide survivors contribute to suicide prevention research by providing essential information about the environmental and genetic backgrounds of the deceased:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1)(A) designates November 18, 2000, as “Na-
3 tional Survivors of Suicide Day”; and

4 (B) requests that the President issue a procla-
5 mation calling on Federal, State, and local adminis-
6 trators and the people of the United States to ob-

1 serve the day with appropriate programs, cere-
2 monies, and activities;

3 (2) encourages the involvement of suicide sur-
4 vivors in healing activities and prevention programs;

5 (3) acknowledges that suicide survivors face dis-
6 tinct obstacles in their grieving;

7 (4) recognizes that suicide survivors can be a
8 source of support and strength to each other;

9 (5) recognizes that suicide survivors have
10 played a leading role in organizations dedicated to
11 reducing suicide through research, education, and
12 treatment programs; and

13 (6) acknowledges the efforts of suicide survivors
14 in their prevention, education, and advocacy activi-
15 ties to eliminate stigma and to reduce the incidence
16 of suicide.

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