

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 587

Recognizing LGBTQ+ suicide as a public health problem and expressing support for the designation of September as “National Suicide Prevention Month”.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. WILD, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. COOPER, Mr. SIRES, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MENG, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. NADLER, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. CORREA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## RESOLUTION

Recognizing LGBTQ+ suicide as a public health problem and expressing support for the designation of September as “National Suicide Prevention Month”.

Whereas, since 2008, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States for all ages and the second leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 to 34;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (in this resolution referred to as “CDC”), on average there are 129 suicides per day, resulting in over 47,000 deaths each year in the United States;

Whereas, from 1999 through 2017, the age-adjusted suicide rate in the United States increased 33 percent from 10.5 to 14.0 per 100,000;

Whereas, according to the CDC’s Youth Risk Behavior Survey data released in 2018, almost half of all lesbian, gay, and bisexual students seriously consider attempting suicide, making them almost 4 times more likely to do so than their straight peers;

Whereas the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey found 40 percent of respondents had attempted suicide in their lifetime—nearly nine times the attempted suicide rate in the United States population at large;

Whereas it is estimated that there are over 1,300,000 suicide attempts each year in the United States, and The Trevor Project estimates that more than 1,800,000 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (in this resolution referred to as “LGBTQ+”) youth seriously consider suicide each year;

Whereas suicide is preventable, as 9 out of 10 suicide attempt survivors do not go on to die by suicide;

Whereas, according to the CDC, suicide results in an estimated \$44,600,000,000 in combined medical and work-loss costs nationally;

Whereas the stigma associated with mental health conditions and suicidality works against suicide prevention by discouraging persons at risk for suicide from seeking life-

saving help and further traumatizes survivors of suicide loss and people with lived experience of suicide; and

Whereas September would be an appropriate month to designate as “National Suicide Prevention Month” which overlaps World Suicide Prevention Day, September 10, recognized internationally and supported by the World Health Organization: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) recognizes suicide as a preventable national  
3       public health problem;

4               (2) supports the designation of “National Suicide Prevention Month”;

6               (3) supports declaring that suicide prevention  
7       should be a priority;

8               (4) acknowledges that no single suicide prevention  
9       program or effort will be appropriate for all  
10      populations or communities, and that particular attention  
11      should be paid to communities known to be  
12      at heightened risk, including LGBTQ+ youth and  
13      LGBTQ+ youth of color;

14              (5) promotes awareness that there is no single  
15      cause for suicide, and that suicide is most often an  
16      impulsive act that occurs during a moment of overwhelming  
17      hopelessness and despair; and

- 1           (6) develops and implements strategies to in-
- 2       crease access to quality mental health, substance
- 3       abuse, and suicide prevention services.

