

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5—Committee on
Human Resources and Facilities

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Urging agencies in Clark County to cooperate in the establishment of a plan for suicide prevention in Clark County.

WHEREAS, For the past 17 years, the State of Nevada has led the nation in the rate of suicide, consistently averaging twice the national rate; and

WHEREAS, For the past 5 years, over 64 percent of completed suicides in our state occurred in Clark County, and during the year 2000, the rate of suicide in Clark County, which contains almost 70 percent of the State's population, was 18.3 per 100,000, only slightly lower than the average for the entire State; and

WHEREAS, An extensive survey of existing agencies for suicide prevention located within Clark County has revealed a substantial lack of programs for public awareness regarding suicide prevention and a definite need for development and improvement of the quantity and range of services offered for suicide prevention throughout Clark County; and

WHEREAS, The survey also made apparent the need for a greater degree of coordination and communication among existing agencies in Clark County that provide resources relating to suicide and the prevention of suicide; and

WHEREAS, There is currently no organized effort in Clark County aimed at suicide prevention, and most of those employed in the health and injury prevention fields are not aware of any comprehensive list of resources relating to suicide prevention; and

WHEREAS, Any serious attempt to reduce the rate of suicide in Clark County will require a strong effort through the cooperation and coordination of agencies in the County to achieve a countywide coalition and partnership that can be an important component of an overall statewide strategy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That governmental and nongovernmental agencies in Clark County, including, without limitation, the Clark County Board of Commissioners, the Clark County Health District, mental health agencies, social service agencies, churches, public health clinics, school districts, law enforcement agencies, emergency medical personnel, providers of health care and other similar community organizations and groups within Clark County, are hereby urged to cooperate in the establishment of a coordinated, comprehensive plan for suicide prevention for the communities within the County; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the plan provide for effective and diverse programs for suicide prevention which can be implemented in the communities of Clark County, including, without limitation, programs that will:

1. Through evidence-based methods, reduce risk factors and enhance protective factors for suicidal behavior in persons of all ages;
2. Distribute educational materials which will increase the awareness of and reduce the stigma associated with suicide;
3. Create a telephone hot line for suicide prevention which is operated 24 hours per day, accredited or certified by a nationally recognized organization in the field of suicide prevention, and supported by existing funding for programs for suicide prevention by local governments in Clark County;
4. Refer persons who are at risk of committing suicide to services through which they can obtain appropriate assistance;
5. Develop a Clark County resource directory or an Internet website, or both, for suicide prevention and for assistance for survivors of suicide;
6. Train first responders and persons who regularly come into contact with persons or families in distress, such as clergy, police officers, emergency medical personnel, primary health care providers, mental health providers and school personnel;
7. Educate the public through the news media and distribution of guidelines regarding the availability of related services; and
8. Provide appropriate services to survivors of suicide; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the funding for these programs include a combination of nongovernmental support as well as support from federal, state and local governmental sources; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Clark County Board of Commissioners, Clark County Health District, Clark County Social Services, Suicide Prevention Center of Clark County, Nevada Public Health Foundation, Nevada Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Suicide Prevention Action Network USA, Inc., Nevada Hospital Association, Psychiatric Emergency Services, Senior Mental Health Outreach Program, Elder Abuse and Neglect Unit of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Lake Mead Geropsych Unit, Valley Hospital Geropsych Unit, Montevista Hospital, Southern Nevada Health Care System of the Veterans' Health Administration, Director of the Department of Human Resources, Ombudsman for Aging Persons of the Aging Services Division of the Department of Human Resources, Administrator of the Health Division of the Department of Human Resources, Agency Director of the Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health

Services of the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services of the Department of Human Resources, and Administrator of the Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Human Resources.