

By: Representative Gramlich

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO RAISE AWARENESS AND TAKE ACTION AGAINST VETERAN
SUICIDE; TO SUPPORT STATE CAPITOL DAY; AND TO PROMOTE
USE OF THE 988 SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE.

Subtitle

TO RAISE AWARENESS AND TAKE ACTION
AGAINST VETERAN SUICIDE; TO SUPPORT STATE
CAPITOL DAY; AND TO PROMOTE USE OF THE
988 SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE.

WHEREAS, State Capitol Day, a day to raise awareness and take action against suicide organized by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention - Arkansas Chapter, will take place at the State Capitol on May 2, 2024; and

WHEREAS, State Capitol Day events provide advocates the opportunity to meet with legislators and speak about legislative and policy issues that need support; and

WHEREAS, state bills have been enacted as a result of joining advocates and lawmakers that now:

- (1) Ban the practice of conversion therapy;
- (2) Required suicide prevention polices and personnel training in K-12 schools;
- (3) Increase suicide prevention on college and university campuses;
- (4) Require insurance plans to treat mental health and physical health equally; and



(5) Create statewide suicide prevention offices and task forces;
and

WHEREAS, suicide is a national public health issue that disproportionately affects veterans; and

WHEREAS, countless veterans suffer from service-related mental health disorders, with post-traumatic stress disorder and major depressive disorder being the most common; and

WHEREAS, many veterans face barriers to treatment for their mental health issues, including shame, long wait times to receive treatment, a lack of understanding of the problem or treatment options, and stigma associated with mental health issues, which put veterans at a high risk for suicide; and

WHEREAS, suicide awareness is key to suicide prevention, including:

- (1) Information about the warning signs of suicide;
- (2) Information concerning suicide prevention; and
- (3) Comprehensive veteran healthcare; and

WHEREAS, suicide can be prevented through the application of a public health strategy combining both clinically-based and community-focused interventions; and

WHEREAS, the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 authorized 988 as the universal telephone number operating through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline; and

WHEREAS, the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline:

- (1) Operates through the Veteran Crisis Line to directly address the need for ease of access and clarity in times of crisis for veterans; and
- (2) Continues to provide veterans assistance from responders who are trained in crisis intervention and military culture; and

WHEREAS, State Capitol Day is a commendable initiative to promote mental health and prevent suicide,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives recognize State Capitol Day and the need to raise awareness and take action to prevent veteran suicide in the State of Arkansas.