

No. R-58. House concurrent resolution recognizing the lifesaving work of the Vermont Suicide Prevention Center and the Vermont Suicide Prevention Coalition.

(H.C.R.39)

Offered by: Representatives Cole of Burlington, Bancroft of Westford, Batchelor of Derby, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Beyor of Highgate, Bissonnette of Winooski, Botzow of Pownal, Branagan of Georgia, Brennan of Colchester, Browning of Arlington, Burke of Brattleboro, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carr of Brandon, Connor of Fairfield, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Corcoran of Bennington, Dame of Essex, Devereux of Mount Holly, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Donahue of Northfield, Donovan of Burlington, Ellis of Waterbury, Evans of Essex, Feltus of Lyndon, Fiske of Enosburgh, Frank of Underhill, Gage of Rutland City, Graham of Williamstown, Greshin of Warren, Hebert of Vernon, Higley of Lowell, Hubert of Milton, Huntley of Cavendish, Jerman of Essex, Johnson of South Hero, Juskiewicz of Cambridge, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Klein of East Montpelier, Komline of Dorset, Krowinski of Burlington, LaClair of Barre Town, LaLonde of South Burlington, Lawrence of Lyndon, Lefebvre of Newark, Lenes of Shelburne, Lewis of Berlin, Macaig of Williston, Marcotte of Coventry, Martel of Waterford, Martin of Wolcott, Masland of Thetford, McCullough of Williston, McFaun of Barre Town, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Murphy of Fairfax, Myers of Essex, Nuovo of Middlebury, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Parent of St. Albans City, Patt of Worcester, Pearce of Richford, Poirier of Barre City, Potter of Clarendon, Purvis of Colchester, Quimby of Concord, Rachelson of Burlington, Russell of Rutland City, Savage of Swanton, Scheuermann of Stowe, Sharpe of Bristol, Shaw of Pittsford, Sabilia of Dover, Smith of New Haven, Stevens of Waterbury, Strong of Albany, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sullivan of Burlington, Sweaney of Windsor, Terenzini of Rutland Town, Till of Jericho, Toleno of Brattleboro, Townsend of South Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, Turner of Milton, Viens of Newport City, Walz of Barre City, Willhoit of St. Johnsbury, Woodward of Johnson, Wright of Burlington, Yantachka of Charlotte, Young of Glover, and Zagar of Barnard

Whereas, suicide is a public health issue that affects individuals and families of all ages, socio-economic strata, ethnicities, and cultures, and

Whereas, in Vermont, the Agency of Transportation recorded 44 highway fatalities in 2014, while the Vermont Suicide Prevention Center (VSPC) reported that in recent years there were 80 suicides annually, and

Whereas, according to data derived from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for 2013, suicide was the 10th-ranking cause of death in the United States, but second for persons 15–24 years of age, and

Whereas, in Vermont, data derived from federal statistical sources indicate that in the years 2009–2013, for persons 24 years of age and younger, suicide was the second leading cause of death, and

Whereas, the Vermont Suicide Prevention Center starts with the premise that suicide is preventable, and the Vermont Suicide Prevention Coalition (the coalition) is the center's advisory group, and

Whereas, this important coalition consists of representatives from public health, education, state agencies, advocacy groups, youth leadership, mental health services, and survivors of suicide attempts, and

Whereas, the coalition's mission is to create communities of hope throughout Vermont, in which schools, mental health agencies, and individuals are given the knowledge and resources to respond effectively to suicidal behavior, and

Whereas, "Umatter" is the coalition's underlying theme, and its work is premised on multiple levels of suicide prevention, ranging from family to friends to community and, finally, to society at large, and

Whereas, Umatter suicide prevention training also entails short-term crisis scenarios that include urging individuals under stress to call local or national hotlines, to contact a local mental health agency, or to proceed immediately to an emergency room, and

Whereas, today, February 13, 2015, representatives of the Vermont Suicide Prevention Center and the Vermont Suicide Prevention Coalition are visiting the State House to inform legislators about suicide prevention programs, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the vital and lifesaving work of the Vermont Suicide Prevention Center and the Vermont Suicide Prevention Coalition, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Suicide Prevention Center.