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THIRD READING

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Bill No: ACR 23  
Author: Villapudua (D), et al.  
Amended: 3/4/21 in Assembly  
Vote: 21

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ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Read and adopted, 3/18/21

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**SUBJECT:** Construction Industry Suicide Prevention Awareness Day

**SOURCE:** Associated Builders and Contractors of California

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**DIGEST:** This resolution promotes awareness of the problem of suicide facing the men and women within California's construction industry populations by proclaiming March 18, 2021, as Construction Industry Suicide Prevention Awareness Day in California.

**ANALYSIS:** This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Suicide is a serious and tragic public health problem that is growing in the United States that can be prevented through increased awareness, resources, and proper treatment.
- 2) Suicide affects all Americans, but data shows that our-construction industry personnel, many of whom are also veterans seeking an opportunity to leverage their military construction skills, in California and the nation die by suicide at much higher rates than other populations.
- 3) The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends fostering social connections and economic supports, thereby improving access to appropriate mental health and other resources and services, and encouraging at-risk individuals to seek mental health treatment, if necessary, without the stigma that sometimes goes along with it, to possibly decrease the number of suicides.
- 4) The construction industry continues to seek better information about the root causes of the industry's too high suicide rates.

- 5) This resolution endeavors to promote awareness of the problem of suicide and the particular epidemic facing the men and women within California's construction industry populations and encourages our communities and the people of the State of California to work together to continue to educate the public on how to recognize the warning signs and improve the outreach to, and treatment of, these individuals at risk for suicide.

This resolution proclaims March 18, 2021, as Construction Industry Suicide Prevention Awareness Day in California.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 4/6/21)

Associated Builders and Contractors of California (source)  
California State Association of Electrical Workers  
California State Pipe Trade Council  
International Union of Elevator Constructors  
Western States Council of Sheet Metal Workers

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 4/6/21)

None received

**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:** The supporters write, "According to a recent study by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the suicide rate among working-age males, those between 16 and 64 years of age, increased 34% during 2000 to 2016, and that the occupational group with the highest male suicide rate is construction and extraction. As many people struggle with stress and anxiety onset by the COVID-19 crisis, suicide prevention and the skills associated with preventing suicide are placed at an all-time premium. Conversely, many of the resources previously offered by local communities have perished due to ongoing financial struggles.

"Now is the time for the industry to STAND up for suicide prevention in our industry and address it as a health and safety priority by creating safe cultures, providing training to identify and help those at risk, raising awareness about the suicide crisis in construction, normalizing conversations around suicide and mental health and ultimately decreasing the risks associated with suicide in construction."

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4/7/21 15:09:28

\*\*\*\* END \*\*\*\*