

Date of Hearing: August 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
HR 126 (Pellerin) – As Introduced July 1, 2026

SUBJECT: Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

SUMMARY: Proclaims the month of September 2026 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month; and, encourages Californians to take the time to understand the importance of mental health, recognize the warning signs of suicide, and support those who may be struggling with mental health issues. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Suicide is a serious public health problem that affects individuals, families, and communities across California. The goal is to speak openly about the importance of mental health and the impacts of suicide, which helps remove the surrounding stigmas and direct people in need to the appropriate support services.
- 2) Suicidal thoughts can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, race, sexual orientation, income level, religion, or background. According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, suicide is the second leading cause of death among adults 25 to 34 years of age, inclusive, and the second leading cause of death among individuals 10 to 24 years of age, inclusive, in California.
- 3) In 2023, there was an average of 134 suicides per day in the United States, which is one every 10 minutes. The overall suicide rate in California is 10.5 per 100,000 people, the highest county rate is in the County of Shasta at 24.9, and the lowest rate is in the County of Imperial at 5.8.
- 4) Suicide rates vary significantly across different racial and ethnic groups. The rates per 100,000 people are: 15.6 for White individuals, 13.4 for American Indian or Alaska Native individuals; 7.0 for Black individuals, 6.4 for Hispanic or Latino individuals, and 5.0 for Asian individuals.
- 5) LGBTQIA+ youth were almost five times as likely to have attempted suicide compared to heterosexual youth, 54 percent of transgender and nonbinary youth in California considered suicide, and 19 percent of transgender and nonbinary youth attempted suicide in the past year.
- 6) Since its launch in July 2022, the 988 suicide prevention lifeline has experienced a notable increase in utilization, reflecting both heightened awareness and demand for mental health support services.
- 7) In May 2023, California's 13 crisis centers responded to approximately 37,800 contacts, including calls, text messages, and chats, marking a 28-percent increase compared to the same period the previous year before the 988 launch.
- 8) Anyone can call or text 988, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year, to receive support when experiencing a suicidal, mental health, or substance use-related crisis.

- 9) September is known nationally as “Suicide Prevention Awareness Month” to raise the visibility of the mental health resources and suicide prevention services available in the community. Suicide Prevention Awareness Month is a time to raise awareness of this stigmatized public health crisis in California.
- 10) The Assembly wants to shift public perception, spread hope, and share vital information to people affected by suicide during this month. California’s goal is to ensure that individuals, friends, and families have access to the resources they need to discuss suicide prevention and to seek help.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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