
THIRD READING

Bill No: SCR 61
Author: Archuleta (D), et al.
Introduced: 4/10/25
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: Military and Veteran Suicide Prevention Awareness

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution proclaims the week of September 15, 2025, to September 21, 2025, inclusive, as Military and Veterans Suicide Prevention Awareness Week in California.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Suicide is a serious and tragic public health problem that can be prevented through increased awareness, resources, and proper treatment. Suicide affects all Americans, but data shows that active duty service members and veterans die by suicide at much higher rates than the civilian population.
- 2) We must recognize that this tragic epidemic is taking the lives of those who have most heavily borne the burden of protecting and serving their country, in the past and present. In 2014, an average of 20 veterans died by suicide each day, and 6 of the 20 were users of United States Department of Veterans Affairs services.
- 3) In the United States Department of Defense's (USDOD) annual reporting for 2023, the military services reported the following for all of 2023: 363 deaths by suicide for active military members; 69 deaths by suicide for military reserve members; and 91 deaths by suicide for members of the National Guard.
- 4) The Defense Suicide Prevention Office in the USDOD is working diligently to reduce these staggering numbers through an integrated and holistic approach to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention utilizing a range of medical and nonmedical resources.

- 5) This resolution endeavors to promote awareness of the problem of suicide and the particular epidemic facing the military population, and encourages active duty service members, veterans, service providers, advocates, 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, individuals at risk for suicide.

This resolution proclaims September 15, 2025, to September 21, 2025, inclusive, as Military and Veteran Suicide Prevention Awareness Week in California.

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

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/23/25)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/23/25)

None received

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4/23/25 16:30:33

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