

Date of Hearing: August 28, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
SCR 61 (Archuleta) – As Introduced April 10, 2025

SENATE VOTE: 37-0

SUBJECT: Military and Veteran Suicide Prevention Awareness.

SUMMARY: Proclaims September 15, 2025, to September 21, 2025, inclusive, as Military and Veteran Suicide Prevention Awareness Week in California. Specifically, **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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.
- 4) 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 six of the 20 were users of United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) services.
- 5) The VA has undertaken several measures to prevent suicide among veterans, including a 24-hours-per-day, 7-days-per-week veterans crisis telephone hotline, using predictive analytics to identify those at risk for suicide and providing early intervention services, bolstering mental health services for female veterans, expanding telemental health services, and proactively reaching out to veterans needing care.

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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