

Rep. Spade offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 418.

A resolution to raise awareness of the dangers of suicide to the citizens of Michigan by naming the week of September 7, 2008, Suicide Prevention Week in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the state and nearly double that of death from homicide and triple that of deaths from HIV/AIDS; and

Whereas, Like the rest of our nation, the highest rates of suicide are among those in Michigan's workforce age, 25- to 64-year-old people, and are primarily men; and

Whereas, In this state, suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15- to 19-year-old people and the second leading cause of death among those individuals enrolled in college; and

Whereas, In the year 2006, over 1,132 people in Michigan died as a result of suicide and over 6,100 people became suicide survivors; and

Whereas, Suicide's impact in the nation and in our state is enormous, whether measured in numbers of deaths, attempts, economic and medical benefit costs, or the devastation to survivors; and

Whereas, In Michigan, completed and attempted suicides have an associated economic impact of over \$1.1 billion annually; and

Whereas, The causes of suicide are complex and multifaceted, involving psychological, biological, and sociological factors; and

Whereas, Suicide is often the result of untreated mental illness, especially depressive illnesses, and research indicates that many suicides could have been prevented with immediate and appropriate intervention and treatment; and

Whereas, Suicide prevention opportunities continue to increase due to advances in clinical research pertaining to the diagnosis and effective treatment of mental illness, along with advances in neuroscience and in the development of community-based suicide prevention initiatives; and

Whereas, Much more can and must be done to reduce the stigma associated with seeking help for emotional or mental health problems, or help for suicidal thoughts and behavior; and

Whereas, Research demonstrates that increased public awareness of warning signs of suicide, and awareness of appropriate and effective intervention strategies, would reduce suicide deaths; and

Whereas, Greater public consciousness of suicide as a major public health problem will help keep our citizens safe and healthy and as part of the greater efforts of the Michigan House of Representatives to raise awareness of mental health issues and prevent suicides; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare the week of September 7, 2008, as Suicide Prevention Week in the state of Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards and mental health and suicide prevention advocates throughout the State of Michigan.