

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REGARDING A NATIONAL
CRISIS HOTLINE**

2017 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Steve Eliason

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This concurrent resolution recognizes that suicide is a public health crisis and encourages the United States Congress to designate a nationwide N-1-1 mental health crisis number to assist with mental health crisis intervention services.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- declares suicide to be a public health crisis;
 - recommends that the Federal Communications Commission investigate the N-1-1 numbers nationwide to determine the best number for a mental health crisis number;
- and
- petitions the Congress of the United States of America to designate an N-1-1 number as a nationwide mental health crisis number.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, in 2016 in the state of Utah, suicides were responsible for 613 deaths, including 74 veterans and 33 children age 18 and younger;

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the state of



Utah has one of the highest suicide rates in the country;

WHEREAS, many people are unaware of how to reach mental health or suicide intervention resources in a moment of crisis;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Public Health Service has stated that easy access to support for help-seeking is a protective factor for suicide;

WHEREAS, 9-1-1, an N-1-1 number, is the most recognized and successful phone number in the United States;

WHEREAS, time and training restraints on most 9-1-1 dispatchers preclude the ability to resolve mental health crisis calls without negatively impacting their primary mission;

WHEREAS, an N-1-1 number dedicated to mental and behavioral health services, patterned after the successful 9-1-1 model for physical emergencies, could assist individuals with suicide intervention or other mental health crises and save countless lives; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention encourage a public health approach to suicide prevention:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, recognizes that suicide is a public health crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor request that the Federal Communications Commission review N-1-1 numbers to recommend the best number to use for a nationwide mental health crisis number and petition the Congress of the United States of America to designate an N-1-1 number after consulting with the Federal Communications Commission as to which N-1-1 number would be best suited for such use.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage other states to pass similar resolutions to show broad support for the creation of a nationwide mental health crisis number.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of Utah's congressional delegation, and the state legislatures of the other 49 states.