



## National Lieutenant Governors Association

### 1                    **Resolution Promoting Suicide Awareness and Prevention**

2    **WHEREAS**, the country has endured an unprecedented pandemic with a clear impact on mental health  
3    and a yet unknown impact on suicide rates, and

4    **WHEREAS**, there is a two-year delay in making suicide data available to health professionals and  
5    researchers in the United States due to a lack of a uniform reporting mechanism for deaths by suicide<sup>i</sup>,  
6    and

7    **WHEREAS**, a real-time reporting system would allow existing suicide-related services to more  
8    effectively meet the needs of their communities, similar to how public health professionals have used  
9    data regarding the spread of the novel coronavirus, and

10   **WHEREAS**, a suicide occurs every 11 minutes<sup>ii</sup> and it is estimated that each suicide impacts up to 135  
11   individuals<sup>iii</sup> and that upwards of 40 percent of Americans are impacted by suicide<sup>iv</sup>, and

12   **WHEREAS**, most communities in the United States rely on systems designed for medical emergencies  
13   to respond to individuals in a mental health crisis<sup>v</sup>, and

14   **WHEREAS**, suicide is an issue that does not discriminate and suicide prevention and access to crisis  
15   intervention services are a bipartisan issue, and

16   **WHEREAS**, 9-8-8 has been established by Congress with unanimous bipartisan support as the national  
17   3-digit National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the volume of calls is expected to double when the line  
18   goes live in 2022, and

19   **WHEREAS**, populations at high risk of suicide include residents of rural counties in the U.S. who have  
20   a significantly greater rate of suicide than the national average; and American Indian and Alaska Natives  
21   who have the highest rate of suicide of any U.S. racial/ethnic group; and Black youth who have the  
22   fastest increasing suicide death rate of any U.S. racial/ethnic group; and youth who are lesbian, gay,  
23   bisexual, transgender, or queer who are 4 times more likely to contemplate suicide than their peers<sup>viii</sup>,  
24   and

25   **WHEREAS**, all persons in crisis require timely access to effective crisis services to address mental  
26   health emergencies, and



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27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Lieutenant Governors Association  
28 encourages effective implementation of crisis services through:  
29 1) the development of real-time data collection mechanisms to track suicide deaths in the United States  
30 in real-time to enable health professionals and researchers to bolster efforts to prevent suicide, and  
31 2) working to ensure that 9-8-8, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and  
32 other crisis services are the most effective by being equipped to provide specialized resources to  
33 high-risk populations.

ADOPTED, this day, the \_\_\_\_\_ of August 2021.

Sponsors: Lt. Governor Adam Gregg (R – Iowa), Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long (D – Delaware), Lt. Governor Kevin Meyer (R – Alaska), Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton (D – Illinois)

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<sup>i</sup> “Understanding Death Data,” CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/projects/understanding-death-data.html>

<sup>ii</sup> “Suicide Facts,” CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/suicide/facts/>

<sup>iii</sup> “How many people are affected by one suicide,” centre for suicide prevention, <https://www.suicideinfo.ca/how-many-people-are-affected-by-one-suicide/>

<sup>iv</sup> “Facts and Statistics,” American Association of Suicidology, <https://suicidology.org/facts-and-statistics/>

<sup>v</sup> “National Guidelines for Behavioral Health Crisis,” SAMHSA, <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/national-guidelines-for-behavioral-health-crisis-care-02242020.pdf>

<sup>vi</sup> Public Law No: 116-172 (10/17/2020) / S.2661 - National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020, U.S. Congress

<sup>vii</sup> “Ring the Alarm: The Crisis of Black Youth Suicide in America,” A Report to Congress from the Congressional Black Caucus, December 2019.