



## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 12-1004

**BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Massey and Kerr A., Todd, Summers, Kerr J., Beezley, Hamner, Holbert, Joshi, Murray, Peniston, Ramirez, Ryden, Schafer S., Solano, Acree, Balmer, Barker, Baumgardner, Becker, Bradford, Brown, Casso, Conti, Coram, Court, DelGrosso, Duran, Ferrandino, Fields, Fischer, Gardner B., Gerou, Hullinghorst, Jones, Kagan, Kefalas, Labuda, Lee, Levy, Liston, Looper, McCann, McKinley, Miklosi, Nikkel, Pabon, Priola, Scott, Sonnenberg, Soper, Stephens, Swalm, Swerdfeger, Szabo, Tyler, Vaad, Vigil, Waller, Williams A., Wilson, Young, McNulty; also SENATOR(S) Roberts and Johnston, Aguilar, Bacon, Boyd, Brophy, Cadman, Carroll, Foster, Giron, Grantham, Guzman, Harvey, Heath, Hodge, Hudak, Jahn, King K., King S., Lambert, Lundberg, Mitchell, Morse, Neville, Newell, Nicholson, Renfroe, Scheffel, Schwartz, Spence, Steadman, Tochtrop, White, Williams S., Shaffer B..**

### **CONCERNING TEEN SUICIDE PREVENTION IN COLORADO.**

WHEREAS, A report from the National Institute of Mental Health indicates that suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death among young people in Colorado and, among persons ages 10 to 34, the 2nd leading cause of death; and

WHEREAS, Colorado has one of the highest suicide rates in the nation, ranking 8th highest in 2007 and 7th highest in 2008, the most recent year of data available nationally; and

WHEREAS, Survey results published by a suicide-prevention agency show that nearly 1 in 5 high school students has seriously considered suicide in the past year; and

WHEREAS, Suicide is an extremely widespread issue among teens in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, A recent Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment report indicates that 15% of young males and 35% of young females think about suicide; and

WHEREAS, The report also shows that 14% of young males and 20% of young females actually make suicide attempts; and

WHEREAS, A survey conducted by the Colorado Youth Advisory Council's 2010-2011 Youth Input Committee found that of the issues surveyed, youth suicide was the issue of greatest importance among teens, with 70.6% of Colorado teens surveyed indicating they were "very concerned" about this issue; and

WHEREAS, Other states, such as New Jersey and Kentucky, already have legislation in place to mitigate the issue of teen suicide; and

WHEREAS, Although the widespread presence of this issue has been repeatedly demonstrated in statistics accumulated over the past several years, too many schools have not yet learned how to combat it, as demonstrated by the continuing prevalence of teen suicide; and

WHEREAS, From the Colorado Youth Advisory Council's perspective, many high school health courses do not adequately address the issue of teen suicide; and

WHEREAS, Family, friends, and high school faculty members often do not know how to recognize warning signs of suicide or how to handle or provide assistance to teens at risk of suicide; and

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of family, friends, and educators to understand and learn how to help teens at risk of suicide, raise awareness of this issue among schools, and take action in order to help mitigate the prevalence of suicide among young people in Colorado; now, therefore,

*Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-eighth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

(1) That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, encourage public schools to actively participate in the observance of the National Suicide Prevention Week, September 2 through 8, 2012; and

(2) That, in addition to receiving training in the recognition of abuse among students, high school faculty members should also receive training in recognizing the warning signs of suicide among students in order to assist them before it is too late; and

(3) That the Colorado Youth Advisory Council shall organize a working group of interested parties to meet in the interim after the second regular session of the Sixty-eighth General Assembly to study the issue of teen suicide prevention and to report the working group's findings and any recommendations to the General Assembly in the Colorado Youth Advisory Council's annual report, pursuant to section 2-2-1305, C.R.S.

*Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the Honorable John Hickenlooper, Governor of Colorado, the Colorado State Board of Education, the Colorado Department of Education, the Colorado Education Association, the Colorado Association of School Boards, the Colorado Association of School Executives, the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Colorado, and the Executive Director of the Second Wind Fund.

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Frank McNulty  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Brandon C. Shaffer  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Marilyn Eddins  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
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Cindi Markwell  
SECRETARY OF  
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