

**Sixty-first Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 6, 2009**

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3041
(Representatives Schneider, Dahl)
(Senators Nelson, Schneider)**

A concurrent resolution to recognize the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention - North Dakota Chapter for their efforts in understanding and preventing suicide through research and education and for providing programs and resources for individuals with mood disorders and those impacted by suicide and to recognize depression as a mental illness and how individuals who suffer from depression may be at an increased risk of suicidal behavior.

WHEREAS, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is the leading national not-for-profit organization exclusively dedicated to understanding and preventing suicide through research and education and to reaching out to people with mood disorders and those affected by suicide; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 there were 32,637 reported suicide deaths in the United States which translates into 11 suicide deaths per 100,000 persons or one suicide death every 16.6 minutes; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 North Dakota, which had 92 reported suicide deaths, had the 12th highest suicide rate in the country, a rate of 14.5 suicide deaths per 100,000 persons and an average of 1.8 suicide deaths every week; and

WHEREAS, suicide is considered to be the second leading cause of death among college students; the second leading cause of death for people aged 24 to 34; the third leading cause of death for people aged 10 to 24; and the fourth leading cause of death for adults between the ages of 18 and 65; and

WHEREAS, at least 90 percent of people who die by suicide have a diagnosable and treatable psychiatric illness, such as major depression, bipolar depression, or some other depressive illness, including schizophrenia; alcohol or drug abuse, particularly when combined with depression; posttraumatic stress disorder, or some other anxiety disorder; bulimia or anorexia nervosa; or personality disorders, such as borderline or antisocial; and

WHEREAS, over 60 percent of all people who die by suicide suffer from major depression and if alcoholics who are depressed are included in the calculation, this figure rises to over 75 percent; and

WHEREAS, depression is among the most treatable of psychiatric illnesses; and

WHEREAS, between 80 percent and 90 percent of people with depression respond positively to treatment and almost all patients gain some relief from their symptoms with treatment; and

WHEREAS, to achieve its mission of understanding and preventing suicide, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention - North Dakota Chapter encourage and fund scientific research into why suicide occurs and how best to prevent it; shape and coordinate new treatment initiatives aimed at reducing suicide; provide educational programs for mental health clinicians, educators, physicians, and other professionals; offer programs to help survivors heal; promote policies that further the prevention of suicide; foster public awareness about warning signs and risk factors; and provide programs and resources for people with mood disorders and their families and involve them in the work of the foundation and chapter;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly recognizes the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention - North Dakota Chapter for their efforts in understanding and preventing suicide through research and education and for providing programs and resources for individuals with mood disorders and those impacted by suicide and recognizes depression as a mental illness and how individuals who suffer from depression may be at an increased risk of suicidal behavior; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the executive director of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and to the president of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention - North Dakota Chapter.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2009,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State