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Title: Suicide Awareness Training

Introduced by: Anthony M. Zacharek, MD, for the Saginaw County Delegation

Original Authors: Taylor Boehler, Joshua David Donkin, and Kathleen Duemling

Referred to: Reference Committee E

House Action: **APPROVED AS AMENDED**

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Whereas, in 2015, suicide was the tenth leading cause of death in the United States and is the second leading cause of death of people aged 15-24<sup>1</sup>, and

Whereas, in 2015, the State of Michigan had a suicide rate of 14.2 per 100,000 people<sup>2</sup>, and

Whereas, in 2012, the Surgeon General and Institute of Medicine called for health care systems around the nation to aid in reducing the number of yearly suicides stating, "clinical preventive services, including suicide assessment and preventive screening by primary care and other health care providers, are crucial to assessing suicide risk and connecting individuals at risk for suicide to available clinical services and other sources of care,"<sup>3</sup> and

Whereas, more potential years of life are lost to suicide than to any other single cause except heart disease and cancer<sup>4</sup>, and

Whereas, in 2013, the cost of one suicide in the United States was assessed to be \$1,329,553<sup>5</sup>, and

Whereas, 64 percent of people who attempt suicide have visited a physician in the month prior to their suicide attempt, and 38 percent of those who attempt suicide visit a physician in the week before<sup>6</sup>, and

Whereas, community-based suicide prevention programs have been shown to be a cost-effective way to lower costs to the health care system from averted suicide attempts and decrease the number of suicides in communities with prevention programs<sup>7</sup>, and

Whereas, the Henry Ford Health System started a ZEROSuicide initiative in 2001 to cut the suicide rate among its patients, and demonstrated an 80 percent reduction in suicide among the Henry Ford Medical Group HMO membership that has been maintained for a decade since the implementation of this program<sup>8</sup>, and

Whereas, Centerstone of Tennessee saw a reduction in the rate of suicides from 3.1 to 1.7 per 10,000 two years after initiating the ZEROSuicide initiative within their health system<sup>9</sup>, and

Whereas, the Texas Department of Health and Human Services implemented the ZEROSuicide initiative statewide beginning in 2014<sup>10</sup>; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS supports the implementation of evidence-based suicide awareness and training programs in health care systems and communities throughout Michigan; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS supports training programs in the use of integrated multidisciplinary approaches to suicide awareness and intervention for health care professionals including physicians,

55 advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, registered nurses, and mental health professionals; and  
56 be it further

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58 RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA)  
59 encourage our AMA to engage with the Liaison Committee on Medical Education in an effort to  
60 encourage the inclusion of formalized suicide awareness training using an evidence-based  
61 multidisciplinary approach in the curriculum of accredited medical schools.

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64 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

### **Relevant MSMS Policy:**

#### **Suicide Prevention Awareness and Education**

MSMS supports efforts to raise awareness about the rising rate and devastating toll of suicide; to increase suicide prevention education for all physicians, residents, medical students, and allied health professionals; to encourage active engagement in suicide prevention awareness with their patients and colleagues; to increase research associated with suicides; and to reduce liability for those who provide suicide prevention care.

### **Relevant AMA Policy:**

#### **Teen and Young Adult Suicide in the United States H-60.937**

Our AMA recognizes teen and young-adult suicide as a serious health concern in the US.

#### **Senior Suicide H-25.992**

It is the policy of the AMA to (1) educate physicians to be aware of the increased rates of suicide among the elderly and to encourage seniors to consult their physicians regarding depression and loneliness; and (2) to encourage local, regional, state, and national cooperation between physicians and advocacy agencies for these endangered seniors.

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<sup>1</sup> Drapeau CW, McIntosh JL. U.S.A. SUICIDE: 2015 OFFICIAL FINAL DATA. Suicidology.org. <http://www.suicidology.org/Portals/14/docs/Resources/FactSheets/2015/2015datapgsv1-wLabelchgs.pdf?ver=2017-12-07-205245-343>. Published December 23, 2016. Accessed December 29, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Surgeon General and National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention. 2012 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action. Washington, DC: HHS, September 2012. 40-41.

<sup>4</sup> WISQARS Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL) Report, 1999 and later - NCIPC. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/ypll.html>. Published February 19, 2017. Accessed December 29, 2017.

<sup>5</sup> Shepard DS, Gurewich D, Lwin AK, Reed GA, Silverman MM. Suicide and Suicidal Attempts in the United States: Costs and Policy Implications. *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*. 2015;46(3):352-362. doi:10.1111/sltb.12225.

<sup>6</sup> Ahmedani BK, Stewart C, Simon GE, et al. Racial/Ethnic Differences in Health Care Visits Made Before Suicide Attempt Across the United States. *Medical Care*. 2015;53(5):430-435. doi:10.1097/mlr.0000000000000335.

<sup>7</sup> Vasiliadis HM, Lesage A, Latimer E, Seguin M. Implementing Suicide Prevention Programs: Costs and Potential Life Years Saved in Canada. *Journal of Mental Health Policy and Economics*. 2015;18(3):147-155.

<sup>8</sup> Coffey MJ, Coffey CE. How We Dramatically Reduced Patient Suicide. *NEJM Catalyst*. <https://catalyst.nejm.org/dramatically-reduced-suicide/>. Published November 3, 2017. Accessed December 29, 2017.

<sup>9</sup> Centerstone. Centerstone: Tennessee Annual Report. Centerstone: Tennessee Annual Report. 2014.

<sup>10</sup> Zero Suicide in Texas (ZEST). Zero Suicide in Texas ZEST. <https://sites.utexas.edu/zest/>. Accessed December 29, 2017.