

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52

Title: Physician Screening for Homicidal Ideation
Introduced by: Robert Sain, MD
Original Author: Robert Sain, MD
Referred to: Reference Committee A
House Action: **ADOPTED AS AMENDED**

Whereas, since the Texas University Tower shooting by Charles Whitman took place 50 years ago on August 1, 1966, there have been no comprehensive strategies developed to address these seemingly random crimes, and

Whereas, the frequency of mass murders by persons using automatic weapons is increasing, and

Whereas, physicians have learned to identify and to assist patients who are suicidal, and

Whereas, it would be important for our patients and for society if physicians could learn to identify and to assist those of our patients who may also be homicidal, and

Whereas, federal and state legislatures have been complicit in eliminating psychiatric inpatient beds since the 1950's in the process known as deinstitutionalization, decisions in all 50 states which have effectively eliminated physicians from the public arena, and

Whereas, the absence of physicians from the public arena has not led public or private organizations or institutions to back-fill the vacuum created by the effective loss of medical knowledge and wisdom in that arena, and

Whereas, though these mass crimes appear random, from a developmental perspective all persons drawn to suicide and to homicide begin life as neonates, children, and adolescents, and

Whereas, because physicians interact with all persons along their developmental journeys, we are well positioned to be helpful to troubled and troubling persons before they lose all hope, and

Whereas, the National Rifle Association and the media portray mass shooters as being "mentally ill," it's more likely for such troubled persons to have visited social workers, pediatricians, family doctors, internists, and obstetricians than to have visited inpatient psychiatrists (or other mental health professionals); therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS ask the American Psychiatric Association and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry to take the lead in developing standardized screening tests for homicidal ideation; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS consider practical remedies to help all Michigan primary care physicians and their colleagues learn how to identify persons poised to commit homicide.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

Relevant MSMS Policy: None