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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, World Suicide Prevention Day was first recognized  
3 in 2003 as an initiative of the International Association for  
4 Suicide Prevention and endorsed by the World Health  
5 Organization, to provide worldwide commitment and action to  
6 prevent suicides; various activities take place around the  
7 world on this day; World Suicide Prevention Day takes place  
8 each year on September 10; and

9           WHEREAS, The International Association for Suicide  
10 Prevention reports that every year more than 800,000 people die  
11 by suicide, and up to 25 times as many make a suicide attempt;  
12 on average, one person in Illinois dies by suicide every six  
13 hours, and in this State, nearly twice as many people die by  
14 suicide than by homicide, as reported by the American  
15 Foundation for Suicide Prevention; behind these statistics are  
16 the individual stories of those who have, for many different  
17 reasons, questioned the value of their own lives; and

18           WHEREAS, There is no single cause for suicide; the warning  
19 signs of suicide include a change in behavior or the presence  
20 of entirely new behaviors; if the new or changed behavior is  
21 related to a painful event, loss, or change, it is of utmost  
22 concern; and

1           WHEREAS, Regardless of a person's circumstances,  
2 communities have an important role to play in supporting those  
3 who are vulnerable; that sentiment is reflected in the 2017  
4 World Suicide Prevention Day theme, "Take a minute, change a  
5 life"; as members of communities, it is our responsibility to  
6 look out for those who may be struggling, check in with them,  
7 and encourage them to tell their stories; broaching the topic  
8 of suicide is difficult, but taking a minute to reach out to  
9 someone can change the course of a life; and

10           WHEREAS, People who have lived through a suicide attempt  
11 have much to teach about how the words and actions of others  
12 are important; almost universally, they say that if someone had  
13 taken a minute, the trajectory that they were on could have  
14 been interrupted; and

15           WHEREAS, World Suicide Prevention Day is a time to  
16 acknowledge the importance of families and communities working  
17 together to achieve the common goal of preventing suicide;  
18 therefore, be it

19           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
20 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
21 designate September 10, 2017 as World Suicide Prevention Day in  
22 the State of Illinois; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That we encourage communities throughout the  
2 State to take a minute to change a life and promote suicide  
3 prevention across the State of Illinois.