



# Lake County Illinois

## Legislation Text

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Resolution proclaiming September as Suicide Prevention Month.

### RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, which helps promote resources and awareness around the issues of suicide prevention and how you can help others who may be considering suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, suicidal thoughts can affect anyone regardless of age, gender or background, is the third leading cause of death among young people, and is too often the result of mental health conditions that effect people when they are most vulnerable; and

**WHEREAS**, every year across the U.S., suicide claims the lives of 45,000 people, while another 500,000 people attempt it, and 90 percent of those who commit suicide have an underlying mental illness; and

**WHEREAS**, studies conducted by the Lake County Health Department, with the support of the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County, estimate there are 18,000 persons with mental, behavior or emotional health conditions living in Lake County; and

**WHEREAS**, for the past several years, between 60 and 70 persons commit suicide in Lake County annually; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for a strong community action for suicide prevention and a coordinated crisis intervention system because, with treatment, these individuals can achieve optimal physical and mental health as well as social and emotional well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, there are many existing businesses, non-profit organizations, agencies, healthcare providers, and governments currently investing in mental, emotional, and behavioral health services in Lake County, but case studies reveal there is a greater chance of success when groups coordinate services and collaboratively organize around outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016, Lake County Board Chairman Aaron Lawlor and the Honorable Susan Garrett formed a new community-based mental health initiative that focuses on data-sharing and researched-based best practices designed specifically for Lake County to form stronger prevention, build capacity, address gaps, and enhance mental, behavioral and emotional health services; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide awareness and prevention is just one part of the overall goal of the prevention of mental illness.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Lake County Board, that September be recognized as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and those who struggle with suicidal thoughts are

encouraged to call Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255); and

**DATED**, at Waukegan, Lake County, Illinois, on August 14, 2018.