

YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION

- WHEREAS, In Utah, suicide is the number one killer of persons between the age of 19 and 24 and the number two killer of children under age 19; and
- WHEREAS, The State of Utah ranks 5th nationally in the number of completed suicides for those 15-19 years of age; and
- WHEREAS, The suicide rate for those 15-19 years of age has increased almost 150% in the last 20 years in the State of Utah; and
- WHEREAS, The actual number of suicides and suicide attempts may be as great as four times the number reported, since they are often classified as either accidents or homicides; and
- WHEREAS, Suicidal children usually do not want to die, but are unable to recognize other solutions for problems; and
- WHEREAS, Many suicidal children exhibit significant warning signs before they attempt or complete suicide; studies indicate that as many as 80 percent of these children have told others that they are going to kill themselves; and
- WHEREAS, Most people, including parents and friends either do not recognize the seriousness of these warning signs or ignore them because they do not know what to do to help; and
- WHEREAS, School districts may be financially liable for failure to provide inadequate suicide prevention programs (Kelson vs. The City of Springville 767 F2d b51); now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the Utah Congress of Parents and Teachers support legislation and school district programs which address the development and implementation of a comprehensive (K-12) age appropriate youth suicide prevention program in all school districts in Utah; and be it further
- Resolved, That these programs include in-service classes for school personnel, classroom discussions, films, awareness presentations for parents, coordination of school and community resources, confidential record keeping, and other materials and methods as they are developed and approved; and be it further
- Resolved, That such programs be conducted by professional personnel trained in the youth suicide prevention, school counselors, school psychologists, school workers, etc.; and be it further
- Resolved, That each school district's crisis intervention procedures include intervention in feeder schools and in the community; and be it further
- Resolved, That the Utah Legislature be encouraged to provide adequate funding to provide suicide prevention programs in every district and school in the State of Utah.