

NEVADA GIRLS STATE
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Memorializes the 2015 session of the Nevada Legislature to enact legislation that will make mental health facilities readily available for Veterans in Nevada to help prevent acts of suicide/self-harm.

WHEREAS, The contribution of members of the Armed Services is vital and necessary to the security of our nation, the sacrifices, made by said individuals should be recognized and supported after they are no longer on active duty; and

WHEREAS, The stressors and trauma that service persons are subjected to during combat duty as well as the difficulties in adjusting to civilian life are at times overwhelming; and

WHEREAS, Suicide is an action often accompanied by high levels of emotional pain and feelings of isolation and hopelessness; and

WHEREAS, The veterans should have mental health facilities readily available to offer them assistance with their problems, which could prevent them from taking their own lives; and

WHEREAS, The state of Nevada has consistently ranked in the top five for suicide rates in the nation, including veteran suicide; and

WHEREAS, For male veterans, the suicide rate in 2009-2010 was as 48.3 per 100,000 compared to the total male suicide rate in Nevada for 29.9 per 100,000 and the national male suicide rate of 19.2 per 100,000; and

WHEREAS, For female veterans, the suicide rate in 2009-2010 was as 26.7 per 100,000, which is over three times the overall female suicide rate in Nevada and six times more than the national female suicide rate; and

WHEREAS, The overall veteran suicide rate between 2005 and 2011 was 50.6 per 100,000 compared to a civilian suicide rate of 23.3 per 100,000 during the same period; and

WHEREAS, The average percentage of all suicides among veterans between 2005 and 2011 was 22.74 percent; and

WHEREAS, According to the 2012 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration report, traits and training needed to survive in a war zone, such as maintaining constant alertness, might contribute to troubling behaviors in civilian life, including edgy feeling and being easily startled; and

WHEREAS, Currently available veterans' assistance programs are not very well advertised to the veterans, hindering them from fully utilizing the services being provided; therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GIRLS STATE OF NEVADA, assembled in Carson City on July 3, 2014, that the 2015 session of the Nevada Legislature is hereby memorialized to enact legislation to make mental facilities readily available for veterans in Nevada to help prevent acts of suicide/self-harm.