



**Alaska Association of Student Governments
Fall Leadership Conference
Bethel High School**

**Resolution #10
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
October 15, 2010**

**Suicide Prevention in Alaska High Schools
Submitted by: Tessa Baldwin, Jackie Tew, and Sophie Clark**

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments;

- 1. Whereas,** Alaska leads the nation in suicide rates; ¹
- 2. Whereas,** teens tend to talk to their peers first, rather than adults when considering suicide;
- 3. Whereas,** suicidal teens feel uncomfortable talking to their parents about suicide and 86% of the parents of teens that committed suicide were unaware that their child was suicidal; ¹
- 4. Whereas,** the majority of suicides in Alaska have been committed by people of the ages 15 to 22; ¹
- 5. Whereas,** 90% of teens who die from suicide have a mental health problem, usually depression, substance abuse, or both; ²
- 6. Whereas,** nationwide more teens die of suicide than of AIDS, cancer, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia, influenza, and chronic lung disease combined; ²
- 7. Whereas,** the signs of potential suicide can be subtle and hard to notice without proper training;
- 8. Whereas,** after a suicide crisis, friends and family are at an increased risk of developing post-traumatic stress disorder, which may lead to a cluster of suicides;

9. Whereas, Alaska provides a number of opportunities for suicide prevention trainings or events;

10. Whereas, schools usually provide grief counseling immediately following a suicide, but this tends to eventually be discontinued or dissipate;

11. Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that all high schools should provide suicide prevention training or awareness events.

Action Statement: If passed by the Alaska Association of Student Governments, this resolution will be sent to all the Alaskan school boards, AASSP and to SBEED.

Sources:

1. Suicide Prevention Workshop (Fall 2010 AASG)
2. Youth Suicide Prevention School-Based Guide <theguide.fmhi.usf.edu>