



**Alaska Association of Student Governments
Resolution #8**

Resolution to Implement a Mandatory Suicide Support Club in all Alaska High Schools

Submitted by: Eagle River High School

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Submitted: October 31, 2019

Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Government that: mandatory suicide support group is implemented in all Alaska High Schools,

- 1. Whereas,** Alaska has the highest suicide rate per capita in the country;
- 2. Whereas,** based on 2016 data, on average one person in Alaska dies by suicide every two days;
- 3. Whereas,** suicide is the fifth leading cause of death in Alaska;
- 4. Whereas,** Alaska Native men between the ages of 15-24 have the highest rate of suicide among any demographic in the country;
- 5. Whereas,** suicide deaths consistently outnumber homicide deaths by a margin of three to two, according to the American Association of Suicidology;
- 6. Whereas,** about 78% of the people who die by suicide are men and 22% are women, according to the Suicide Prevention Resource Center;
- 7. Whereas,** youth who are exposed to suicide or suicidal behaviors are more at-risk for attempting suicide, according to the Suicide Prevention Resource Center;

8. **Whereas**, according to data collected by the Department of Health and Social Services, 1,103 people died by suicide between 2012 and 2017 making the annual suicide rate 29.2 people for every 100,000 people age 10 or older - marking a 13% increase from the previous rate of 25.8 people per 100,000 from 2007-2011;
9. **Whereas**, the suicide support club would be made up of students and an adult(s) facilitator;
10. **Whereas**, the club would be optional to participate in, and in no way mandatory;
11. **Whereas**, the club could meet at their own discretion and/or during best designated time for the school;
12. **Whereas**, the club would not require school funding, and could receive funds through grants, fundraising or donations;
13. **Whereas**, this club can provide an opportunity for students to be more involved in making a difference in their school community;
14. **Whereas**, all members and facilitators would be QPR trained;
15. **Whereas**, QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer;
16. **Whereas**, QPR is proven to be a successful suicide prevention training;
17. **Whereas**, four ASD High Schools currently have suicide support groups;
18. **Whereas**, two out of three MSBSD schools (Palmer High School and Burchell High School) have contacted our school stating they'd like have a suicide support group as well;
19. **Whereas**, high schools where students are more connected to peers and adult staff have lower rates of suicide attempts, according to a study published by the *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*;
20. **Whereas**, the club could give presentations to local middle/elementary schools and organizations on QPR training;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports that it is mandatory for a suicide support group to be offered in all Alaska High Schools or districts.

Action Statement: This resolution, if passed by the Fall Conference 2019 AASG delegation, will advance to the Alaska Association of Student Activities for further discussion and implementation.

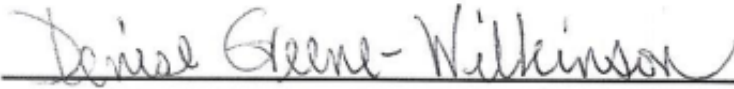
Sources:

1. AlaskaStatistics,dhss.alaska.gov/suicideprevention/pages/statistics.aspx.
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2. “Alaska’s Suicide Rate on the Rise, Report Says.” KTVA 11 - The Voice of Alaska,
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3. “Looking at Alaskas High Suicide Rate " Alaska Public Media: INTERACTIVE.”
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4. Public Media INTERACTIVE, www.alaskapublic.org/interactive/?page_id=264.
5. Associated Press. “Alaska Suicide Rate Jumped 13 Percent over 5 Years, According to State Study.” Anchorage Daily News, Anchorage Daily News, 8 Jan. 2019,
www.adn.com/alaska-news/2019/01/07/alaska-suicide-rate-jumped-13-percent-over-5-years-according-to-state-study/.

Passed unanimously by the 2019 Fall Conference GA at Palmer High School

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Forrest Davis", written over a horizontal line.

AASG Vice President, Forrest Davis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise Greene-Wilkinson", written over a horizontal line.

AASG Executive Director, Denise Greene-Wilkinson