



**State Board of Education Ceremonial Resolution
Recognizing National Suicide Prevention and Awareness Week
CR22-28**

WHEREAS, The United States recognizes National Suicide Prevention and Awareness Week each year on the week of September 10th, World Suicide Prevention Day;

WHEREAS, the purpose of National Suicide Prevention and Awareness Week is to bring awareness to suicide prevention by engaging health care professionals and advocates to support and inform the general public about the issues concerning mental health crises and suicide;

WHEREAS, in 2020, the Suicide Resource Prevention Center (SRPC) reported that suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth within the ages of 10–14 and young adults within the ages of 25–34;

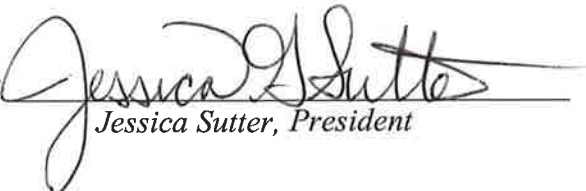
WHEREAS, there are several risk factors that may lead to suicide across community groups, including but not limited to stress resulting from historical trauma and discrimination, known to directly affect LGBTQ+ youth;

WHEREAS, the D.C. Youth Risk Behavior Survey is conducted by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) every two years, specifically addressing risk behaviors in middle and high schools across D.C. and in their findings from 2019, highlighted that 15 percent of students reported a suicide attempt compared to the national average of 12 percent; and

WHEREAS, education agencies in D.C. work to enhance student mental health support by increasing access to mental health services through the partnership between public schools and community mental health organizations—and there is a continued effort to expand these services to serve all 244 public and public charter schools.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the D.C. State Board of Education recognizes and observes National Suicide Prevention and Awareness Week and works to advocate and inform preventative education within schools and throughout communities to raise awareness and thwart continued instances of suicide.

Date Adopted: 9/21/2022

Signed: 
Jessica Sutter, President

