



*"Saving Lives in Tennessee"*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 27, 2018**

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**Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network Supports the Need for More  
Resources to Address Tennessee's Increasing Suicide Rate**

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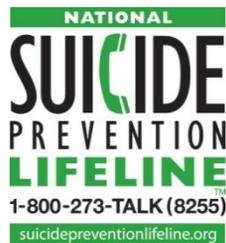
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN) applauds the Tennessee General Assembly approving the legislation of the passing of [The Suicide Prevention Act of 2018](#), sponsored by Senate Health and Welfare Committee Chairman Rusty Crowe (R-Johnson City) and House State Government Committee Chairman Bob Ramsey (R-Maryville), calls for the team to gather suicide data identifying causes and factors in order to direct limited prevention resources in the most effective way possible.

“The Suicide Prevention Act of 2018” authorizes the Commissioner of Health to create the Tennessee suicide prevention program. This team appointed by the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Health will address the growing number of adult suicides in Tennessee. TSPN is proud to have played a part in the adoption of this bill and is indebted to the support of Senator Crowe, Representative Ramsey, and the General Assembly for taking the first steps for adopting this legislation. Scott Ridgway, TSPN Executive Director, states that “the support of Senator Crowe and Representative Ramsey was crucial to the advancement of this bill. Because of his assistance and efforts with this bill, Tennessee continues to be at the National forefront in suicide prevention and advancements towards this cause.”

The team established by this bill will compile existing data on suicide deaths, review existing resources and programs related to suicide prevention, identify evidence-based or promising practices relation to the prevention of suicide, convene relevant stakeholders to review existing data and existing programs and resources and identify opportunities to improve data collection and analysis and programming, and submit a report to the general assembly no later than June 30, 2020, recommending any necessary programs or policies to prevent suicide deaths in this state.

In any given day, three Tennesseans lose their life to suicide. “Through the efforts and collaborations put in place by this important bill, Tennessee is better prepared to prevent suicide here in Tennessee, as one suicide is one suicide too many,” stated Ridgway. Statistics highlighted in the 2018 Status of Suicide Report (<http://tspn.org/sost>) note that there were 1,110 recorded suicide deaths in Tennessee in 2016, up from 1,065 the past year (representing a 4% increase). The crude suicide rate went up from 15.6 to 16.2 per 100,000 (representing a 4% increase).

There are numerous ways to become involved with TSPN and help prevent suicide across the Tennessee. Whether it be attending a regional meeting, requesting a training for your agency/group/organization, or donating to TSPN all of this and more can be found on our website at <http://tspn.org/> as well as through our various social media accounts @TSPNorg. We are also proud to once again highlight the Love Never Dies Memorial Quilt (<http://tspn.org/quilt>). If you have lost a loved one to suicide and would like to place a square on this year’s quilt in their memory, please email TSPN at [tspn@tspn.org](mailto:tspn@tspn.org).



Text “TN” to  
741741

TTY line: 1-800-799-4TTY (4889)

For non-emergency information on suicide prevention, contact the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network at (615) 297-1077 or [tspn@tspn.org](mailto:tspn@tspn.org). More information about TSPN is available at the agency website ([www.tspn.org](http://www.tspn.org)).

TSPN is the statewide public-private organization responsible for implementing the Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention. TSPN and its volunteers work across the state to organize activities & projects promoting suicide prevention awareness, providing suicide prevention & crisis intervention training to community organizations, and conducting postvention sessions for schools & organizations after suicides occur.

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