

REPORT (MISC. #06133)

July 20, 2006

BY: General Government Committee, William R. Patterson, Chairperson

**IN RE: MR #06133 - BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – SUPPORT FOR SENATE
RESOLUTION 146 – TEEN SUICIDE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION**

To the Oakland County Board of Commissioners

Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The General Government Committee, having reviewed Miscellaneous Resolution #06133 on July 10, 2006, reports with a recommendation that the resolution be adopted.

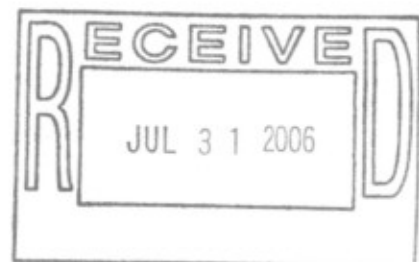
Chairperson, on behalf of the General Government Committee, I move acceptance of the foregoing report.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Cherie A. Long

General Government Committee Vote:

Motion carried on a roll call vote with Hatchett absent.



Miscellaneous Resolution #06133

BY: Commissioners Helaine Zack, District #22 and Marcia Gershenson, District #17

RE: Board of Commissioners – Support for Senate Resolution 146 – Teen Suicide Prevention and Education

TO: Oakland County Board of Commissioners

Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen:

WHEREAS suicide is the third leading cause of death among people ages 15 to 25; and

WHEREAS youth suicide is a silent epidemic that is ravaging our nation and stealing the futures of our young people; and

WHEREAS nationally, approximately 3 million youth ages 12 – 17 were at risk of suicide in the past 12 months; and

WHEREAS there is an alarming increase in the nation's youth suicide rate. Suicide ranks as the third leading cause of death for ages 15-24 and fourth for ages 10-14; and

WHEREAS within a typical high school classroom, it is likely that three students – two girls and one boy – have attempted suicide in the past year; and

WHEREAS suicide is the second leading cause of death for our college-age youth, as well as for ages 15 to 19 in many states; and

WHEREAS more teenagers and young adults have died of suicide than from cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia, influenza, and chronic lung disease combined; and

WHEREAS a suicide can devastate a community. According to the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), suicide severely impacts the families and friends left behind, who often live with extreme shame and guilt over not having prevented the death of their loved one. Moreover, many attempts which do not result in death nonetheless end in serious injury to the victims and lifelong trauma to their families and those who know them; and

WHEREAS a person who is considering suicide may exhibit behavioral warning signs. If someone notices the warning signs of suicide, it may be possible to avert a tragedy. With the possible exception of a parent, no one is better situated than a teacher to detect these signs and to initiate appropriate steps to prevent a suicide attempt; and

WHEREAS proper training for teaching staff members can thus save pupils' lives and save the families and friends of would-be victims the trauma of a suicide or suicide attempt. Moreover, early identification of depression and other problems may help to reduce the number of young people who commit or attempt to commit suicide once they have left school and entered adulthood; and

WHEREAS Senate Resolution No. 146 encourages the State Board of Education to incorporate suicide prevention and education as part of the State of Michigan's public school curriculum.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners hereby supports the concept contained in Senate Resolution No. 146 and joins in encouraging the Michigan Board of Education to incorporate suicide prevention and education into Michigan's public school curriculum.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oakland County Clerk is requested to forward copies of this adopted resolution to Senator Johnson, Senator Barcia, Senator Cherry, Senator Clarke, Senator Goschka, Senator Switalski, the Michigan Board of Education, the Senate Committee on Education, the Oakland County Delegation to the State Legislature, the Michigan Association of Counties, and

Oakland County's Legislative Lobbyists.

Chairperson, we move the adoption of the foregoing Resolution.

Helaine Zack
Commissioner Helaine Zack
District # 22

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Commissioner
District # 18

Marcia Gershenson
Commissioner
District # 17

Vincent Gigony
Commissioner
District # 21

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Commissioner
District # 11

George W. Suarez
Commissioner
District #

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Commissioner
District # 15

Rob Potter
Commissioner
District # 8

Commissioner
District #

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Commissioner
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Commissioner
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Marcia Gershenson
Commissioner Marcia Gershenson
District #17

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