



KOOTENAI COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED ACCESS TO SUICIDE PREVENTION RESOURCES AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Whereas suicide was the second leading cause of death for Idahoans ages 15-34 in 2016 and Idaho had the 8<sup>th</sup> highest suicide rate in the United States in 2016;

Whereas Kootenai County suffered the loss of 22 individuals to suicide in the first seven months of 2017 and loss of life to suicide continues to be of great concern to the residents of Kootenai County;

Whereas the victims of 22.8% of suicides between 2010 and 2014 were members or former members of the armed services and in 2015 the suicide rate for veterans remained 2.1 times as high as for the non-veteran population; and

Whereas the national suicide rate has increased by 30% since 1999 and an average of 1 person committed suicide every 12 minutes between 2012 and 2016; now, therefore be it

***Resolved***, that the Kootenai County Democratic Central Committee

1. supports increased allocation of tax revenue to fund local mental health services and suicide prevention training for school district and criminal justice system employees in the use of the Trauma Informed Care Model;
2. encourages the distribution of suicide prevention hotline materials in local schools and public services offices;
3. advocates for offering consistent, on-going suicide prevention training for school counselors; and
4. encourages the development and funding of suicide prevention programs for local veteran's outreach programs.