

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(7)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: November 16, 2021

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida Legislature to adopt Senate Memorial 302 and House Memorial 63 or similar legislation urging the United States Congress to recognize the epidemic of suicide among veterans and fully fund suicide prevention efforts by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; and urging the United States Congress to fully fund the United States Department of Veterans Affairs suicide prevention efforts

Resolution No. R-1115-21

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Joe A. Martinez.



Handwritten signature of Geri Bonzon-Keenan in blue ink, with the text "Geri Bonzon-Keenan" and "County Attorney" printed below it.

Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney


GBK/jp



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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County Attorney

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Please note any items checked.

- "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- Budget required
- Statement of fiscal impact required
- Statement of social equity required
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- No committee review
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, or CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c)(2) ____) to approve
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(7)
11-16-21

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-1115-21

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT SENATE MEMORIAL 302 AND HOUSE MEMORIAL 63 OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO RECOGNIZE THE EPIDEMIC OF SUICIDE AMONG VETERANS AND FULLY FUND SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORTS BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS; AND URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO FULLY FUND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORTS

WHEREAS, according to a report released in June 2020 by the United States Census Bureau, as of 2018 there are approximately 18 million veterans of the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, this figure represents the men and women who served the United States in peacetime and during military engagement ranging from before World War II through the post-9/11 period; and

WHEREAS, tragically, and as demonstrated in a September 2021 report published by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (“V.A.”), veterans are at a higher risk of suicide as compared to their non-veteran peers; and

WHEREAS, as that report from the V.A. reveals, in 2019, the suicide rate amongst non-veterans was 16.8 per 100,000, while the suicide rate amongst veterans was 31.6 per 100,000; and

WHEREAS, while the V.A. has noted positive trends in the rates of veteran suicides insofar as fewer veterans died by suicide in 2019 than in 2018, nevertheless, as the V.A. observes, “[a]s long as [v]eteran suicides numbers are annually in the thousands, there is no sense of mission accomplishment or satisfaction”; and

WHEREAS, Senate Memorial 302 and House Memorial 63 correctly recognize veteran suicides as a crisis and wisely urge the United States Congress to fully fund the V.A.'s veteran suicide prevention efforts,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to adopt Senate Memorial 302 and House Memorial 63 or similar legislation urging the United States Congress to recognize the current crises of veteran suicide and to fully fund suicide prevention efforts undertaken by the V.A.

Section 2. Urges the United States Congress to fully fund the V.A.'s veteran suicide prevention efforts.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, Senator Danny Burgess, Representative Matt Willhite, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Section 4. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the legislative action set forth in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2022 State Legislative Package to include this item.

Section 5. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the legislative action set forth in section 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2021 Federal Legislative Package to include this item and to include this item in the 2022 Federal Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Joe A. Martinez. It was offered by Commissioner **Joe A. Martinez**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **José "Pepe" Diaz** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman	aye	
	Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Vice-Chairman	aye	
Sen. René García	absent	Keon Hardemon	aye
Sally A. Heyman	absent	Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye
Eileen Higgins	aye	Joe A. Martinez	aye
Kionne L. McGhee	absent	Jean Monestime	aye
Raquel A. Regalado	aye	Rebeca Sosa	aye
Sen. Javier D. Souto	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 16th day of November, 2021. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

Melissa Adames

By: _____
Deputy Clerk



Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

MAG

Miguel A. Gonzalez