

WHEREAS, in the United States, one person dies by suicide every 18 minutes, with an average of 44,193 deaths by suicide a year; and

WHEREAS, in our country, suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds and is the 10th leading cause of death for people of all ages; and

WHEREAS, psychological studies have consistently found that the overwhelming majority of people who die by suicide—90% or more—had a mental disorder at the time of their deaths and often, these disorders had not been recognized, diagnosed, or adequately treated; and

WHEREAS, far too many Sedgwick County residents and Kansans die by suicide each year, and most of these deaths are preventable. In 2015, 68 Sedgwick County residents died by suicide; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Coalition is to promote and implement evidence based approaches, local research and community change to reduce the impact of suicide with the ultimate goal of zero suicides in Sedgwick County; and

WHEREAS, in Sedgwick County help is available by calling the Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at 316-660-7500.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, David M Unruh, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the week of September 10 - 16, 2017, as

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

The topic of suicide will continue to challenge us all to increase our awareness and education, and I call upon the residents of our community to join me in learning to recognize the signs of someone at risk, taking those signs seriously and knowing how to respond.

September 6, 2017