

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 656

Supporting the designation of September 17, 2021, as “National Physician Suicide Awareness Day” to raise awareness of, and promote a national discussion about, physician suicide and to reduce the stigma of mental health issues.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2021

Ms. STEVENS (for herself, Ms. WILD, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. CHU, and Mr. PAPPAS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

---

## RESOLUTION

Supporting the designation of September 17, 2021, as “National Physician Suicide Awareness Day” to raise awareness of, and promote a national discussion about, physician suicide and to reduce the stigma of mental health issues.

Whereas, prior to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) pandemic, numerous health care workers suffered from work-related burnout and depression;

Whereas physicians work under intense pressure and are exposed to trauma on the job;

Whereas the suicide rate among—

(1) male physicians is 1.41 times higher than the general male population; and

(2) female physicians is even more pronounced, being 2.27 times higher than the general female population;

Whereas physicians, nurses, and allied health providers serving on the frontlines of the COVID–19 pandemic are under a critically high degree of stress and burnout;

Whereas shortages of personal protective equipment, difficult working conditions, burdensome administrative tasks, long hours, grief over losing patients, and watching the families of patients suffer added a layer of extreme stress for many frontline workers;

Whereas mental health and physical health are equally important components of overall health;

Whereas there are structural barriers in place that discourage self-care and mental health help-seeking behaviors among physicians; and

Whereas a day of public awareness and education campaigns to shine a light on the tragedy of physician suicide is held on September 17 each year: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) supports the goals of National Physician  
3       Suicide Awareness Day to bring national attention  
4       to the mental health crisis affecting physicians in  
5       the United States;

6               (2) dedicates a day of reflection to honor the  
7       memory of physicians who have died by suicide;

- 1           (3) recognizes the need for greater research  
2       into understanding and addressing the issue of phy-  
3       sician suicide, including the barriers to treatment,  
4       help-seeking behaviors to address burnout, and men-  
5       tal care options to prevent physician suicide; and
- 6           (4) encourages the President to issue a procla-  
7       mation calling on the people of the United States to  
8       observe National Physician Suicide Awareness Day  
9       with appropriate awareness and educational activi-  
10      ties.

○