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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. ____

To support the designation of September 17, 2021, as National Physician
Suicide Awareness Day

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RESOLUTION

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

Whereas prior to the COVID-19 global pandemic, far too many health care
workers suffered from work-related burnout and depression. Physicians
work under intense pressure and are exposed to trauma on the job;

Whereas the suicide rate among male physicians is 1.41 times higher than the
general male population. And among female physicians, the relative risk is
even more pronounced — 2.27 times greater than the general female
population;

Whereas physicians and health care providers serving on the frontlines of the
COVID-19 pandemic are under a critically high degree of stress and
burnout;

Whereas the lack of personal protective equipment, difficult working conditions,
burdensome administrative tasks, long hours, grief over losing patients, and

watching patients' families suffer added a layer of extreme stress for many frontline workers;

Whereas mental health is a legitimate and integral part of human health;

Whereas there are structural barriers – enforced in part by medical boards and hospital systems – 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 physician suicide is held on September 17 each year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals of National Physician Suicide Awareness Day to bring national attention to this mental health crisis in the United States

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

(3) recognizes the need for greater research into understanding and addressing the issue of physician suicide, including the barriers to treatment, help-seeking behaviors to address burnout, and mental care options to prevent clinician suicide.

(4) encourages the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate awareness and educational activities.