SUPPORT FOR S. RES. 99

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask that the attached letter of support from the American Psychological Association be printed in the RECORD in support of S. Res. 99.

The letter follows:

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

Hon. Harry Reid
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Dear Senator Reid: On behalf of the 159,000 members and affiliates of the American Psychological Association (APA), I want to express support for your proposed Senate Resolution that would designate November 20, 1999, as “National Survivors for Prevention of Suicide Day.”

The APA is concerned that suicide rates among young adolescents, African American males, American Indians/Alaskan Natives, and the elderly have increased dramatically over recent years. Since the 1950’s, suicide rates among youth have nearly tripled. Between 1980 and 1990, the suicide rate increased by 30 percent in the 10- to 19-year-old age group. Suicide remains the second leading cause of death for 15- to 24-year-old American Indians and Alaskan Natives. For Americans ages 65 and older, the suicide rate increased by nine percent between 1980 and 1992. Elderly Americans comprise about 13 percent of the country’s population but account for about 20 percent of all suicides.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death in the United States—our country is in dire need of a national effort to prevent suicide. In response to that need, the Surgeon General has been working with mental health advocates to develop a National Strategy for the Prevention of Suicide and is expected to publish a final version of the coordinated strategy later this year.

Your proposed Senate resolution would serve to further the intent of S. Res. 84, which you successfully introduced in the last Congress, to recognize suicide as a national problem and declare suicide prevention as a national priority. The proposed resolution would acknowledge the trauma of those who have suffered loss through suicide (suicide survivors) and the support they derive from one another. Their active involvement individually and through organizations has been the key to their ability to reduce suicide through research, education, and treatment programs.

In closing, the APA lends its support to you and other sponsors of Congress in securing passage of this resolution. We also look forward to learning more about the administration’s initiatives in the upcoming hearing of the Senate’s Appropriations on the Nation’s Year for the Prevention of Suicide before the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-Health and Human Services and Education.

With best regards,

Raymond D. Fowler, Ph.D.,
Executive Vice President and
Chief Executive Officer.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION’S PERSON OF THE YEAR: MR. GREGORY SULLIVAN

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Mr. Gregory Sullivan as the Small Business Administration’s Person of the Year. Mr. Sullivan exemplifies the “American Dream,” and is living proof that with hard work and dedication any one individual can succeed.

SALUTE TO LOIS BODOKY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I salute a longtime Vermont businesswoman, and a fixture on Burlington’s Church Street Marketplace, Mrs. Lois Bodoky.

Lois is affectionately known in Burlington as the “Hot Dog Lady” for she recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of her business running a hot dog cart in downtown Burlington.

Lois went into the hot dog business not long after her hair salon was lost in a fire. She took a leave of absence and was running my first campaign for U.S. Senator. Back then, Church Street was a typical Vermont downtown, and Lois operated her cart on the sidewalk as...