

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 506

By Halford

A RESOLUTION to commemorate October 16, 2019, as  
"Tennessee Farmer Suicide Prevention Day".

WHEREAS, Tennessee is one of the nation's leading agricultural states and benefited from an economic impact of more than \$57.6 billion generated from agriculture and forestry in 2018; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that we proactively address farmer suicide in Tennessee, with the goal of reducing suicides through prevention, intervention, and postvention efforts; and

WHEREAS, in Tennessee, there are over 67,300 farms, spread across 9 million acres of land and employing more than 349,000 Tennesseans in both the agricultural and forestry industries; and

WHEREAS, each day, we lose three Tennesseans to suicide; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, seventy-six individuals who worked in the farming, fishing, and forestry industries died by suicide in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network is partnering with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture to create the Tennessee Farmers Suicide Prevention Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Farmers Suicide Prevention Task Force strives to unite farmer-serving organizations such as the Tennessee Farmers Cooperative, Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, the University of Tennessee Extension Services, and many more throughout Tennessee with the goal of suicide prevention; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force will strive to promote options to improve the behavioral and mental health status of and reduce suicide risk among agricultural workers and their families; and

WHEREAS, suicide in the agriculture industry is a crucial issue that affects countless members of the community, and Tennessee Farmer Suicide Prevention Day will promote the importance of suicide prevention and spark discussion about the significance of Tennessee agriculture and its farmers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby join with the Tennessee Farmers Suicide Prevention Task Force as they commemorate October 16, 2019, as "Tennessee Farmer Suicide Prevention Day".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.