

September 20, 2023

Council Member Mackenzie Kelly, District 6  
City Hall  
301 W. Second Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

RE: Letter of Support for Suicide Prevention Outreach Resolution

Dear Council Member Kelly:

West Texas Counseling and Guidance's Zero Suicide (ZS) program is based on the foundational belief that suicide deaths for individuals under the care of health and behavioral systems are preventable. Through our Zero Suicide program, rapid access to therapy is provided to individuals who are experiencing overwhelming depression, suicidal thoughts/intentions, self-harm, or a mental health crisis hindering one's safety.

Located in Tom Green County, we understand the devastation that suicide deaths cause to individuals, families and communities, as we have experienced suicide rates higher than the state and national averages.

We offer this letter of support for the proposed resolution for the city of Austin to increase awareness in the community by providing suicide prevention materials, information for how a person at risk can seek help as well as information on safely storing firearms in areas such as archery ranges or shooting facilities.

We appreciate your dedication and commitment to help end suicide deaths through important public health initiatives that encourage suicide education and prevention, risk reduction, as well as supporting the removal of stigma related to mental health and those seeking needed services.

Sincerely,



Dusty McCoy, LPC-S  
CEO  
West Texas Counseling and Guidance