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California State Senate

SENATOR
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TWENTY-NINTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES:
EDUCATION
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
HOUSING
JUDICIARY
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS
RULES

SB 800 (Reyes): Highway Emergency Life Protection (HELP) program

SUMMARY

SB 800 establishes a pilot program requiring the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to install suicide deterrents on 10 freeway overpasses in San Bernardino County. These deterrents may include suicide prevention signage and physical barriers to prevent falls or intentional jumps that could result in death.

BACKGROUND

The rising number of suicide incidents from freeway overpasses is not only a profound tragedy for individuals and families but also a serious public safety concern for motorists, first responders, and the broader community.

In the past six months alone, multiple suicides and attempts have occurred along the 210 Freeway overpasses, including the heartbreaking loss of two high school students at the same location – 1.5 weeks apart from one another. While some attempts have been prevented, each represents a crisis that could have ended in another devastating loss. These incidents underscore the urgent need for intervention. No family, school, or community should have to endure such unimaginable grief.

Despite the urgent need, San Bernardino County lacks suicide prevention measures on freeway overpasses. With no statewide strategy in place, vulnerable individuals in

crisis are left without critical protections, putting both lives and communities at risk.

It is imperative that we take immediate action to implement preventive measures that provide hope, support, and protection for those in distress.

THIS BILL

This bill establishes a pilot program requiring Caltrans to install suicide deterrents on 10 freeway overpasses in San Bernardino County. These deterrents may include, but are not limited to, suicide prevention signage and physical barriers to prevent falls or intentional jumps that could result in death. In order to address the biggest losses, the bill prioritizes locations with the highest documented suicide rates over the past 20 years.

SUPPORT

City of Rancho Cucamonga (Sponsor)
Omid & Krista Furutan
Wellness Ranch Equine Assisted Therapy

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