



THE ARIZONA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

NO. 03-20  
DATE: 03/03/2020

**INTRODUCED BY:** Arizona Psychiatric Society  
**SUBJECT:** Mental Health Parity

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1 Whereas, in 2018, 1532 Arizonans were lost to drug overdoses and 1432 to suicide; and  
2  
3 Whereas, suicide is the 8th leading cause of death and the 2nd leading cause of death for ages 15-34  
4 in Arizona; and  
5  
6 Whereas, suicide rates rose in Arizona from 15.4 per 100,000 deaths in 2006 to 18 per 100,000  
7 deaths in 2017, a rate 24% higher than the U.S. average; and  
8  
9 Whereas, suicide cost Arizona a total of \$1,246,006,000 in lifetime medical and work loss in 2010;  
10 and  
11  
12 Whereas, self-inflicted injury-related hospital costs in Arizona were estimated at \$193 million in  
13 2017; and  
14  
15 Whereas, rising suicide and overdose deaths are the result of a number of factors including difficulty  
16 accessing appropriate mental health and substance abuse treatment, which barriers to treatment  
17 include limited insurance coverage for necessary services; and  
18  
19 Whereas, access to lifesaving psychiatric treatment in Arizona is limited by insurance coverage  
20 which provides lesser benefits for mental health and substance use conditions than for medical  
21 conditions; and  
22  
23 Whereas, on average, coverage is 15-20% less for mental health treatment than for comparable  
24 medical treatment; and  
25  
26 Whereas, more restrictive mental health coverage leads to long waits for outpatient psychiatric  
27 evaluation and care and to unsafe and premature discharges from inpatient hospitalization; and  
28  
29 Whereas, Federal law (the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act Of 2008 (42 United States  
30 Code Section 300gg-26) and implementing regulations (the MHPAEA) requires parity, that is, that  
31 insurers treat mental health the same as physical health; however, states have the primary  
32 enforcement authority over the insurers within each state; and  
33  
34 Whereas, Arizona law was enacted on March 3, 2020 including provisions for the enforcement of  
35 MHPAEA, and transparency in the reporting of that compliance to the Arizona Department of  
36 Insurance (SB1523 known as Jake’s Law); therefore, be it



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- 1 **Resolved**, the Arizona Medical Association supports parity and the enforcement of the reporting
- 2 and compliance called for under the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 and Title
- 3 20, Arizona Revised Statutes, Chapter 28, Mental Health Parity.