WHEREAS, Suicide is an extremely complex, but preventable, health issue that requires compassion, empathy, trust, understanding, and access to professional services; and

WHEREAS, According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 44,965 Americans die by suicide each year, making it one of the 10 leading causes of death in the nation and overall suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people ages 10 to 24; and

WHEREAS, A recent study in the American Medical Association journal JAMA Network Open found that with the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing, nearly a quarter of people in the United States are experiencing symptoms of depression, three times as much as before the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Suicide prevention is especially vital for our students, faculty, staff and wider community and it is essential that we educate our community about suicide, mental health and substance abuse problems and the ways they affect all people in the community; and

WHEREAS, We must encourage friends, family, co-workers, and providers to recognize the signs of a problem, and guide those in need to appropriate services and supports - as friends and social media are key sources of information for young people;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ohlone College Board of Trustees hereby declares September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and affirms the need for suicide prevention awareness and robust mental health services.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 8th day of September, 2021.