

Cosponsor and Support the Bipartisan Barriers to Suicide Act (H.R. 3505)

Facts



48,824 Americans died by suicide in 2024 - **1,297** by falling from bridges and high places.¹



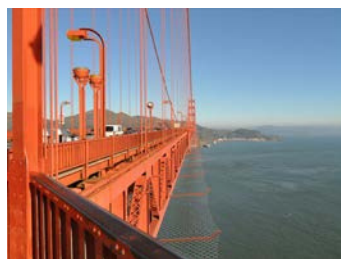
Suicide crises are often **brief and impulsive**. Creating **time and delay** allows the acute risk to pass and enables intervention.



Physical barriers are a proven way to create that critical time and deter attempts. A summary report of thirteen studies found a **91% reduction** in suicide at publicly accessible areas of height where barriers were installed.



Most individuals who are prevented from making a suicide attempt via one method **typically do not go on to attempt** with another method.²



About the Bill

The Barriers to Suicide Act creates a competitive grant program under the Department of Transportation to facilitate the installation, on certain infrastructure, of evidence-based suicide deterrents, including suicide prevention nets and barriers.

Specifically, the bill would:

- Support the installation of **suicide-deterrent barriers** on bridges, buildings, parking garages, highway-rail grade crossings, and rail stations, saving lives by preventing suicide attempts by jumping
- Direct the Comptroller General to examine non-bridge structures that attract suicide attempts and **assess the effectiveness** of nets and barriers
- Authorize **\$10 million annually between FY 2026 and FY 2030** to support the installation of barriers; priority will be given to projects located in an area with a high rate of suicide or other factors determined by the Secretary of Transportation

Installing barriers is an evidence-based, cost-effective intervention that creates time for help to arrive and saves lives.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. (2024). WISQARS Fatal and Nonfatal Injury Reports. [cdc.gov/injury/wisqars](https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars)

² Okalis, C., Wood, S., Hawton, K., Kandalama, U., Glendenning, A.C., Dennis, M., Price, S.F., Lloyd, K., & John, A. (2020). Means restriction for the prevention of suicide by jumping. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 25;2(2):CD013543. Retrieved from: [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7039710](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7039710).

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Status

Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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