A RESOLUTION

Recognizing the month of September 2020 as "National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month" and September 10, 2020, as "World Suicide Prevention Day" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, Every year, 800,000 people take their own lives, which represents one person dying from suicide every 40 seconds; and

WHEREAS, Each year, 16 million people will attempt suicide, and countless more people will be impacted as families, communities and entire countries grapple with the long-term effects of suicide; and

WHEREAS, Suicide is a complex and not yet fully understood phenomenon that may be determined by multifaceted interactions of a broad range of factors, including, but not limited to,
neurobiology, personal and family history, stressful events and sociocultural environment; and

WHEREAS, Some known risk factors are periods of socioeconomic, family and individual crisis situations, such as financial problems, relationship break-ups, acts of persecution and discrimination, isolation, substance abuse disorders and feelings of depression, burnout or anxiety, chronic pain or illness; and

WHEREAS, Suicide is a serious public health problem that is preventable with timely, evidence-based and often low-cost interventions; and

WHEREAS, Reducing suicide rates requires a response to known psychosocial, cultural and environmental risk factors; and

WHEREAS, Intervention measures can be taken at the population, subpopulation or individual level and may include behavioral health services, school-based programs, early identification, pharmacological treatment, cognitive behavioral therapy and psychosocial support; and

WHEREAS, Suicide prevention efforts require coordination and collaboration among multiple sectors of society, including the sectors of health, education, labor, business, agriculture, justice, law, government and the media; and

WHEREAS, Suicide prevention is an achievable global public health goal that should remain a priority at the national and international levels; and

WHEREAS, The House of Representatives recognizes that it is imperative to raise awareness that suicide is preventable; and

WHEREAS, The House of Representatives affirms that the Commonwealth must make every effort to improve education and awareness and decrease the stigmatization relating to suicide;
RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the month of September 2020 as "National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month" and September 10, 2020, as "World Suicide Prevention Day" in Pennsylvania.