A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of September 21 through 27, 2020, as "Rail Safety Week" in Pennsylvania.

2 WHEREAS, Rail travel is an essential part of our transportation infrastructure, reducing congestion on the roads and in the skies, connecting cities and rural communities and providing a more environmentally friendly mode of transportation that contributes to our energy security; and

3 WHEREAS, Projections of the United States Department of Transportation show substantial increases in rail transport over the next three decades; and

4 WHEREAS, As advanced technology helps build quieter and faster trains, the necessity to teach people how to be safe around them increases; and

5 WHEREAS, In the United States, a person or vehicle is hit by a train approximately every three hours; and

6 WHEREAS, While crossing collisions have been reduced over the past four decades, there were still approximately 300 crossing fatalities in 2019; and
WHEREAS, Trespassing is an even larger danger, resulting in 1,104 deaths and injuries in 2019, an increase of nearly 10% since 2018; and

WHEREAS, Operation Lifesaver is a nonprofit public safety education and awareness organization dedicated to reducing collisions, fatalities and injuries at highway-rail crossings and trespassing on or near railroad tracks; and

WHEREAS, Operation Lifesaver is working with the United States Department of Transportation and other organizations to observe the third national "Rail Safety Week" from September 21 through 27, 2020; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania designate the week of September 21 through 27, 2020, as "Rail Safety Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the United States Department of Transportation and Operation Lifesaver at 1420 King Street, Suite 201, Alexandria, VA 22314.