A RESOLUTION

Designating the week of September 21 through 28, 2020, as "Safe2Say Something Week" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, Act 44 of 2018 established the Safe2Say Something Program in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, The Safe2Say Something Program was established to be an anonymous resource for students, teachers and community members to report behavior perceived to be threatening to an individual or a school entity; and

WHEREAS, The Safe2Say Something Program includes a reporting system within the Office of Attorney General to accept and refer anonymous reports of threatening behavior; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Attorney General partners with Sandy Hook Promise to administer the Safe2Say Something Program; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Attorney General and Sandy Hook Promise train individuals to do all of the following:

(1) Recognize warning signs and signals from individuals
who may be a threat to themselves or others.

(2) Report concerns about individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others through the Safe2Say Something Program;

and

WHEREAS, On January 14, 2019, the Safe2Say Something Program began accepting reports and continues to accept reports 24 hours per day, seven days per week and 365 days per year; and

WHEREAS, From January 2019 through the end of the 2019-2020 school year, the Office of Attorney General and Sandy Hook Promise have trained approximately 1,090,679 students on the Safe2Say Something Program; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Attorney General's second annual report on the Safe2Say Something Program was released on August 3, 2020; and

WHEREAS, The report stated that since the Safe2Say Something Program began accepting reports in January 2019, more than 47,200 reports have been submitted; and

WHEREAS, While initially intended to prevent threats against schools in this Commonwealth, the Safe2Say Something Program has highlighted a variety of behavior and mental health concerns in students; and

WHEREAS, Bullying/cyber bullying, suicide/suicide ideation and cutting/self-harm are the top three event types reported through the Safe2Say Something Program; and

WHEREAS, The United States Secret Service, National Threat Assessment Center, released a report that stated:

(1) more than 1 million students have reported being harassed, threatened or bullied;

(2) eighty percent of school shooters admitted their
plans ahead of time to at least one person; and

(3) seventy percent of individuals who took their own lives told someone of their plans or provided warning signs ahead of time;

and

WHEREAS, The Safe2Say Something Program is considered a national model to protect students, teachers, school employees and the community; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the week of September 21 through 28, 2020, as "Safe2Say Something Week" in Pennsylvania.