

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 189 Session of  
2017

INTRODUCED BY DAVIS, DEAN, FREEMAN, BIZZARRO, DIGIROLAMO,  
DeLUCA, DRISCOLL, MACKENZIE, BURNS, DONATUCCI, HENNESSEY,  
McNEILL, MURT, BARRAR, THOMAS, KINSEY, SCHWEYER, SAINATO,  
WARREN, CALTAGIRONE, MILLARD, WARD, LONGIETTI, CHARLTON,  
NEILSON, READSHAW, BULLOCK, GOODMAN, D. COSTA, O'BRIEN,  
MARSICO, GILLEN, RYAN, KORTZ AND V. BROWN, MARCH 27, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MARCH 27, 2017

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of September 2017 as "Code Green: First  
2 Responders Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month" in  
3 Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, First responders, including law enforcement  
5 officers, firefighters and paramedics, routinely and  
6 courageously confront risk; and

7 WHEREAS, First responders draw on training and experience to  
8 make sound decisions in the middle of a crime scene, four-alarm  
9 fire or medical emergency and, when duty requires, experience  
10 horrors, trauma and loss that few, if any, can imagine; and

11 WHEREAS, For many years, the prevailing culture among first  
12 responders has been stoicism; and

13 WHEREAS, All trauma a first responder had experienced was to  
14 be dealt with quietly and dealt with alone, and the first  
15 responder was expected to return to work; and

16 WHEREAS, Thanks to efforts like The Code Green Campaign,

1 after many decades that culture is changing; and

2 WHEREAS, The first responder community is learning that  
3 emotional health, in addition to physical health, is critical to  
4 readiness and that seeking support is a sign of strength and not  
5 weakness; and

6 WHEREAS, The Code Green Campaign was founded in March 2014 by  
7 a group of emergency medical services (EMS) professionals who  
8 had been growing increasingly concerned about the high rate of  
9 suicide among fellow first responders and the lack of discussion  
10 about mental health in the profession; and

11 WHEREAS, The Code Green Campaign takes its name from both the  
12 color of the mental health awareness ribbon and the code alerts  
13 that EMS uses to designate an emergency patient; and

14 WHEREAS, Code green symbolizes that first responders are  
15 calling a code alert on their own mental health; and

16 WHEREAS, The mission of The Code Green Campaign is to bring  
17 awareness to and reduce the high rates of mental health issues  
18 among first responders, eliminate the stigma that prevents first  
19 responders from admitting these issues exist and asking for  
20 help, educate first responders on self-care and peer care and  
21 lobby for systemic change among first responder agencies; and

22 WHEREAS, The Code Green campaign raises awareness by giving  
23 first responders an outlet to tell individual stories of mental  
24 health issues anonymously and republishing those stories so the  
25 stories can be viewed by everyone; and

26 WHEREAS, It also allows those who do not have firsthand  
27 experience with mental health issues to understand that mental  
28 health issues can affect anyone, thereby decreasing the stigma;  
29 and

30 WHEREAS, In the future, The Code Green Campaign hopes to

1 provide education to first responders, agencies and communities;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, More information and additional resources about The  
4 Code Green Campaign, suicide prevention and suicide awareness  
5 can be found at [www.codegreencampaign.org](http://www.codegreencampaign.org); therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
7 month of September 2017 as "Code Green: First Responders Suicide  
8 Prevention and Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it  
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all  
11 residents to understand the behavioral health issues of first  
12 responders and recognize that when first responders take better  
13 care of themselves, they can better serve our community; and be  
14 it further

15 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
16 the Pennsylvania State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police, the  
17 Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, the Pennsylvania  
18 Emergency Medical Services Council and the Pennsylvania  
19 Professional Fire Fighters Association.