

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating October 2014 as "Senior Bully Awareness Month" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, October is National Bullying Prevention Month and
4 this yearly campaign unites communities nationwide to educate
5 and raise awareness of bullying prevention; and

6 WHEREAS, It is generally believed that 4% to 6% of elderly
7 persons are abused; and

8 WHEREAS, Throughout the world, abuse and neglect of elderly
9 persons is largely unrecognized; and

10 WHEREAS, No state or municipality is immune from this costly
11 public health and human rights crisis; and

12 WHEREAS, Research indicates that public education events such
13 as National Bullying Prevention Month are vital for raising
14 community awareness of, and mobilizing community action against,
15 elder abuse and neglect and financial exploitation of elderly
16 persons; and

17 WHEREAS, As the population ages and more Americans become

1 senior citizens with life savings, they become greater targets
2 for fraud and deception; and

3 WHEREAS, The ease of access for criminals to contact seniors
4 through the Internet and telephone increases as more creative
5 schemes emerge; and

6 WHEREAS, Senior fraud is a growing concern as millions have
7 fallen victim to scams, including Medicare scams, sweepstakes
8 and lottery scams, investment and work-at-home scams,
9 bereavement scams, identity theft, charity scams, granny scams
10 and home repair scams; and

11 WHEREAS, Senior citizens average one scam-type letter and two
12 telemarketing phone calls per week; and

13 WHEREAS, There are about five million cases of financial
14 exploitation of elderly persons in the United States each year
15 and the financial loss by victims is more than \$2.9 billion
16 annually for reported cases; and

17 WHEREAS, Approximately 1.6 to 2 million seniors become
18 victims of abuse or neglect in domestic and institutional
19 settings in the United States every year; and

20 WHEREAS, The four most common forms of elder abuse are
21 physical abuse, including sexual abuse, psychological and
22 emotional abuse, financial/material abuse and neglect; and

23 WHEREAS, Most elder abuse victims are dependent on their
24 abusers for basic needs; and

25 WHEREAS, At least one in nine Americans who are 60 years of
26 age or older has experienced some form of elder abuse; and

27 WHEREAS, Seniors who have been abused have a 300% higher risk
28 of death when compared to those who have not been abused; and

29 WHEREAS, In almost 90% of elder abuse and neglect incidents,
30 the perpetrator is a family member, and two-thirds of

1 perpetrators are adult children or spouses; and

2 WHEREAS, Almost 50% of seniors with dementia experience some
3 form of abuse; and

4 WHEREAS, For every reported incident of elder abuse, five
5 others go unreported; and

6 WHEREAS, While 91% of Federal abuse prevention dollars are
7 spent on child abuse, 7% are spent on domestic abuse and only 2%
8 are allocated to protect elderly persons; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
10 month of October 2014 as "Senior Bully Awareness Month" in
11 Pennsylvania.

