

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 157 Session of  
2009

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, ALLOWAY, ARGALL, BAKER, BOSCOLA, COSTA,  
ERICKSON, FERLO, FONTANA, GREENLEAF, HUGHES, KASUNIC,  
KITCHEN, O'PAKE, ORIE, PILEGGI, RAFFERTY, STACK, STOUT,  
TARTAGLIONE, WARD, WASHINGTON, M. WHITE AND MELLOW,  
JULY 28, 2009

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JULY 28, 2009

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of September 6 through 13, 2009, as  
2 "Suicide Prevention Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Suicide is the 11th leading cause of all deaths in  
4 the United States and the 4th leading cause of death among  
5 people 18 to 65 years of age; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2005 more than 1,400 Pennsylvanians, or an  
7 average of more than three people each day, died by suicide,  
8 including more than 160 Pennsylvanians 15 to 24 years of age;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, More people are hospitalized or treated and released  
11 as a result of a suicide attempt than are fatally injured; and

12 WHEREAS, It is important to note that suicide rates increase  
13 with age and are very high among people 65 years of age and  
14 older, particularly people who are isolated and suffering from a  
15 physical illness; and

16 WHEREAS, The causes of suicide are complex and multifaceted,

1 involving psychological, biological and sociological factors;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Ninety percent of all people who die by suicide have  
4 a diagnosable psychiatric disorder at the time of death, most  
5 commonly a depressive or substance abuse disorder; and

6 WHEREAS, The stigma associated with mental illness  
7 discourages at-risk persons from seeking lifesaving help and  
8 further traumatizes survivors of suicide; and

9 WHEREAS, Suicide prevention opportunities continue to  
10 increase due to advances in clinical research on the diagnosis  
11 and effective treatment of mental illness, advances in  
12 neuroscience and community-based suicide prevention initiatives;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Many suicides are preventable; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of September 6  
16 through 13, 2009, as "Suicide Prevention Week" in Pennsylvania  
17 and urge all residents of this Commonwealth to support the  
18 volunteer agencies that work to educate the public on the  
19 symptoms and risk factors associated with suicide in order to  
20 prevent suicides and thus reduce the number of suicides in this  
21 Commonwealth.