
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 440 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY AUMENT, VULAKOVICH, BREWSTER, BARTOLOTTA,
LANGERHOLC, BROOKS, FONTANA, EICHELBERGER, GREENLEAF, STREET,
DINNIMAN, SCHWANK, MARTIN, BAKER, MENSCH, SABATINA, BROWNE,
KILLION, RAFFERTY, WHITE AND FOLMER, SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of September 2018 as "Military Suicide
2 Prevention and Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Current studies confirm a high suicide rate among
4 veterans; and

5 WHEREAS, Though veterans make up less than 9% of the United
6 States population, veterans accounted for 14.3% of all suicides
7 in America in 2015; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2015, an average of 20.6 veterans lost their
9 lives as a result of suicide each day; and

10 WHEREAS, Roughly 59% of all veteran suicides in 2015 were
11 individuals 55 years of age or older; and

12 WHEREAS, Among male veterans, the largest number of lives
13 lost to suicide occurs in middle-aged males 55 to 74 years of
14 age, while the highest rates of civilian suicide are among the
15 youngest males 18 to 34 years of age; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2015, the rate of suicide among veteran males was
17 31.1 per 100,000, and from 2005 to 2015, the rate of suicide

1 among veteran males increased by 6.2%; and

2 WHEREAS, Among female veterans, the highest rate of suicide
3 occurs among the youngest female veterans 18 to 29 years of age;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, In 2015, the rate of suicide among veteran females
6 was 15.3 per 100,000, and from 2005 to 2015, the rate of suicide
7 among veteran females increased by 5.2%; and

8 WHEREAS, After adjusting for differences in age and gender,
9 risk for suicide was 17.1% higher among veterans when compared
10 with civilian adults; and

11 WHEREAS, Officials at the Department of Veterans Affairs have
12 responded to the veteran suicide crisis by boosting the
13 department's mental health personnel and suicide hotline staff
14 in recent years; and

15 WHEREAS, Each Veterans' Administration facility has been
16 asked to commit to "Be There" for veterans through a number of
17 enhanced methods, including a "no wrong door" philosophy for
18 suicide prevention to ensure that every Veterans' Administration
19 employee assists veterans in need and to establish buddy systems
20 so veterans have someone to reach out to when needed; and

21 WHEREAS, Communities, peers, close associates and the media
22 are critical in preventing death by suicide; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of September
24 2018 as "Military Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month" in
25 Pennsylvania; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge civilians to help prevent
27 veteran suicide by learning about the warning signs of
28 depression and crisis; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge the residents of this
30 Commonwealth to "Be There" for our veterans and learn about ways

1 to support veterans in need; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Senate fully support the bipartisan
3 actions of the Congress of the United States and the Department
4 of Veterans Affairs as they continue to work together to improve
5 the needed support for our veterans; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
7 the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs in support of
8 the department's continued efforts to prevent military suicides.