
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 965 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY O'MARA, BENNINGHOFF, SCHMITT, BIZZARRO, SCHLEGEL
CULVER, HILL-EVANS, KOSIEROWSKI, BURNS, WILLIAMS, MADDEN,
BROWN, JOZWIAK, NEILSON, FREEMAN, SAMUELSON, MIZGORSKI,
LONGIETTI, SAPPEY, McNEILL, RYAN, VITALI, ULLMAN, KORTZ,
DAVANZO, SCHLOSSBERG, JONES, SCHROEDER, KINSEY, BROOKS,
SONNEY, DONATUCCI, SANCHEZ, DAVIDSON, MILLARD, YOUNGBLOOD,
MALAGARI, WARREN, READSHAW, KENYATTA, MACKENZIE, KRUEGER,
HOWARD, MURT, SCHWEYER, DRISCOLL, T. DAVIS, DEASY, ZABEL,
HANBIDGE, STRUZZI, THOMAS, KIM, McCARTER, DALEY, McCLINTON,
MERSKI, PASHINSKI, ROZZI, HENNESSEY, INNAMORATO, STEPHENS,
SHUSTERMAN, B. MILLER, GAYDOS, HOHENSTEIN, CIRESI AND
DELLOSO, AUGUST 7, 2020

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
AUGUST 7, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of September 2020 as "National Suicide
2 Prevention Awareness Month" and September 10, 2020, as "World
3 Suicide Prevention Day" in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, Every year, 800,000 people take their own lives,
5 which represents one person dying from suicide every 40 seconds;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Each year, 16 million people will attempt suicide,
8 and countless more people will be impacted as families,
9 communities and entire countries grapple with the long-term
10 effects of suicide; and

11 WHEREAS, Suicide is a complex and not yet fully understood
12 phenomenon that may be determined by multifaceted interactions
13 of a broad range of factors, including, but not limited to,

1 neurobiology, personal and family history, stressful events and
2 sociocultural environment; and

3 WHEREAS, Some known risk factors are periods of
4 socioeconomic, family and individual crisis situations, such as
5 financial problems, relationship break-ups, acts of persecution
6 and discrimination, isolation, substance abuse disorders and
7 feelings of depression, burnout or anxiety, chronic pain or
8 illness; and

9 WHEREAS, Suicide is a serious public health problem that is
10 preventable with timely, evidence-based and often low-cost
11 interventions; and

12 WHEREAS, Reducing suicide rates requires a response to known
13 psychosocial, cultural and environmental risk factors; and

14 WHEREAS, Intervention measures can be taken at the
15 population, subpopulation or individual level and may include
16 behavioral health services, school-based programs, early
17 identification, pharmacological treatment, cognitive behavioral
18 therapy and psychosocial support; and

19 WHEREAS, Suicide prevention efforts require coordination and
20 collaboration among multiple sectors of society, including the
21 sectors of health, education, labor, business, agriculture,
22 justice, law, government and the media; and

23 WHEREAS, Suicide prevention is an achievable global public
24 health goal that should remain a priority at the national and
25 international levels; and

26 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives recognizes that it is
27 imperative to raise awareness that suicide is preventable; and

28 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives affirms that the
29 Commonwealth must make every effort to improve education and
30 awareness and decrease the stigmatization relating to suicide;

1 therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
3 month of September 2020 as "National Suicide Prevention
4 Awareness Month" and September 10, 2020, as "World Suicide
5 Prevention Day" in Pennsylvania.