PRINTER'S NO. 238

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 23 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY HAYWOOD, CAPPELLETTI, COMITTA, FONTANA, SANTARSIERO, TARTAGLIONE, COSTA AND KEARNEY, JANUARY 31, 2023

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JANUARY 31, 2023

A RESOLUTION

Recognizing the week of February 1 through 7, 2023, as "Gun Violence Survivors Week" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, Gun violence, whether intentional or unintentional, involves the use of a firearm to commit violent acts, such as armed robbery, aggravated assault, suicide, homicide, domestic violence and mass shootings; and

WHEREAS, A gun violence survivor is anyone who has personally experienced gun violence, whether having been threatened or wounded with a gun or having witnessed an act of gun violence, or a family member or friend of someone who was wounded or killed as a result of gun violence; and

WHEREAS, For every person who dies from gun violence, two more survive; and

WHEREAS, Nine out of ten gun violence survivors report experiencing trauma from the incident; and

WHEREAS, Among those persons who experienced gun violence within the last 12 months, more than half indicated the resulting trauma affected their well-being and ability to

function; and

WHEREAS, Half of survivors reported that they experienced gun violence in a home, whether their own or that of a neighbor, friend or family member; and

WHEREAS, Nurses, doctors and medical or hospital staff were the most likely to say they experienced the impact of gun violence through their work, followed by school employees, such as teachers and staff; and

WHEREAS, Two-thirds of survivors are in need of mental health services, therapy and support; and

WHEREAS, Forty-nine percent of survivors require crime victim legal assistance; and

WHEREAS, For 40% of survivors, financial assistance is necessary to deal with medical expenses, such as physical therapy, rehabilitation services and surgical equipment; and

WHEREAS, Home health care is needed for one in four survivors; and

WHEREAS, Seven percent of survivors need assistance to cover funeral-related expenses; and

WHEREAS, Fifty-eight percent of American adults have been impacted by gun violence in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, Three million children are affected by gun violence every year; and

WHEREAS, Currently, more than 1 million women living in the United States have been shot or shot at by their significant others; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 3.7 million women in the United States have been threatened with a gun by their significant other; and

WHEREAS, In an average year, 1,574 families and communities are affected by gun violence and the pain, fear and trauma

associated with it; and

WHEREAS, Gun violence rose 23% in Pennsylvania in the last 10 years; and

WHEREAS, In 2021 alone, the City of Philadelphia gained 1,846 new gun violence survivors and their families, of which 1,329 survivors were between 18 and 39 years of age; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the devastating human cost, every year gun violence costs the Pennsylvania economy $567 million; and

WHEREAS, The Every Murder Is Real Healing Center in Philadelphia provides holistic support, including grief support groups, assistance with paperwork and court advocacy for family members and friends left in the wake of gun violence; and

WHEREAS, Moms Demand Action is a national network of parents, families, students and concerned citizens dedicated to keeping families safe, encouraging responsible gun ownership and advocating for common-sense gun safety legislation; and

WHEREAS, Moms Demand Action, along with Mayors Against Illegal Guns, Students Demand Action and the Everytown Survivor Network, is part of Everytown for Gun Safety, the largest gun violence prevention organization in the country, with nearly 6 million supporters and 350,000 donors; and

WHEREAS, Everytown for Gun Safety is joined by several other national nonprofit organizations, including the Brady Campaign and Giffords Law Center, in the pursuit to end gun violence in America; and

WHEREAS, A gun violence survivor described their trauma as follows: "Dealing with the inconsistencies of healing, both physically and emotionally. The existence of being this gray person in a world where everyone else sees everything as black

and white. I'm either completely fine and it's over and done, or I'm this wounded person who can never be functional - the lack of understanding that I am not really either, but some days may be one or the other"; and

WHEREAS, "Gun Violence Survivors Week" is an acknowledgment of the pain and suffering felt by survivors of gun violence who continue to live with that trauma; and

WHEREAS, By recognizing "Gun Violence Survivors Week," the Commonwealth joins communities across America to raise awareness of its broad impact on society and express empathy to those who have endured pain as a result of a firearm; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the week of February 1 through 7, 2023, as "Gun Violence Survivors Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize Moms Demand Action and other gun violence prevention organizations for their efforts in addressing gun violence and in the pursuit of building safer communities for the residents of this Commonwealth and citizens of this country.