
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 614 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY WATERS, HAGGERTY, GAINNEY, COHEN, YOUNGBLOOD,
O'BRIEN, BISHOP, CALTAGIRONE, DAVIS, SCHLOSSBERG, HEFFLEY,
THOMAS, BENNINGHOFF, LUCAS, DIGIROLAMO, D. COSTA, WATSON,
KAVULICH, MILLARD, MARSHALL, MAJOR, SWANGER, FREEMAN, KOTIK,
KIM, O'NEILL, MARSICO, HARHART, GIBBONS, V. BROWN, FLYNN,
MURT, MENTZER, MASSER, GINGRICH, KIRKLAND, MCCARTER,
DONATUCCI, MAHONEY, DeLUCA, GOODMAN, FRANKEL, MILNE, FARINA,
READSHAW AND BROWNLEE, JANUARY 16, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JANUARY 16, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging all residents of this Commonwealth to increase
2 suicide awareness.

3 WHEREAS, Suicide is a serious public health crisis affecting
4 people of all ages, races and ethnicities and causing more than
5 30,000 premature deaths each year; and

6 WHEREAS, Suicide is the fourth-leading cause of death among
7 people 18 to 65 years of age and the eleventh-leading cause of
8 all deaths nationwide; and

9 WHEREAS, With three deaths by suicide for every two deaths by
10 homicide, the incidence of suicide exceeds the incidence of
11 homicide; and

12 WHEREAS, With one-third more suicide deaths by firearm than
13 homicide deaths by firearm, suicides account for more deaths by
14 firearm; and

1 WHEREAS, The stigma long associated with suicide discourages
2 at-risk persons from seeking lifesaving help and compounds the
3 trauma of survivors; and

4 WHEREAS, This destructive stigma inhibits open dialogue about
5 the effects of suicide on our health and welfare as individuals,
6 families and communities; and

7 WHEREAS, Erasing this stigma is important in producing
8 measurable, significant and sustainable decreases in suicidal
9 behaviors and the resulting deaths and suffering in our
10 communities; and

11 WHEREAS, It is time to step forward in expressing our own
12 personal losses related to suicide and in taking action to
13 prevent deaths by suicide; and

14 WHEREAS, The causes of suicide are complex, having
15 psychological, biological and sociological bases; and

16 WHEREAS, With known suicide risk factors, including mental
17 disorders and substance abuse disorders, access to mental health
18 care and addiction treatment are central to suicide prevention;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Conflict resolution and appropriate clinical and
21 emotional support reduce the likelihood of suicide; and

22 WHEREAS, Effective prevention methods further require the
23 involvement of family and community stakeholders; therefore be
24 it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives, noting and
26 seeking protection against the devastating consequences of
27 suicide and the associated stigma, encourage all residents of
28 this Commonwealth to increase suicide awareness.