

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 313 Session of  
2025

INTRODUCED BY O'MARA, OTTEN, McNEILL, SANCHEZ, HANBIDGE, PROBST,  
GUZMAN, RABB, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, MADDEN, SHUSTERMAN, SAMUELSON,  
WARREN, HOHENSTEIN, HILL-EVANS AND CIRESI, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of September 7 through 13, 2025, as  
2 "National Suicide Prevention Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Suicide is defined as someone taking his or her own  
4 life with conscious intent by lethal means, including a firearm,  
5 poisoning, suffocation or other self-injury; and

6 WHEREAS, More than 49,000 Americans, including 1,976  
7 Pennsylvanians, died by suicide in 2023; and

8 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's suicide rate was 15.2 per 100,000  
9 people as of 2023; and

10 WHEREAS, Suicide is the eleventh leading cause of death in  
11 Pennsylvania; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2023, more than twice the number of  
13 Pennsylvanians died by suicide than by homicide; and

14 WHEREAS, Due to the stigma, it is suspected that suicide is  
15 generally underreported; and

16 WHEREAS, Prevention, education, advocacy, public policy and  
17 community support are keys to addressing suicide stigma; and

1       WHEREAS, The sensitive use of suicide-related language is  
2 also essential to eliminating suicide stigma; and

3       WHEREAS, The term "committed suicide" implies a level of  
4 criminality while "completed suicide" implies earlier attempts  
5 when there may have been none; and

6       WHEREAS, Both terms perpetuate the stigma associated with  
7 suicide and are strongly discouraged; and

8       WHEREAS, Using the word "successful" or "failed" to describe  
9 suicide is also discouraged; and

10       WHEREAS, "Died by suicide" or "died of suicide" as well as  
11 "suicide death" and "fatal suicide behavior" are recommended  
12 language; therefore be it

13       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
14 week of September 7 through 13, 2025, as "National Suicide  
15 Prevention Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

16       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage the  
17 residents of this Commonwealth to utilize the sensitive language  
18 that does not perpetuate the stigma of suicide or imply  
19 criminality when reporting a death by suicide.